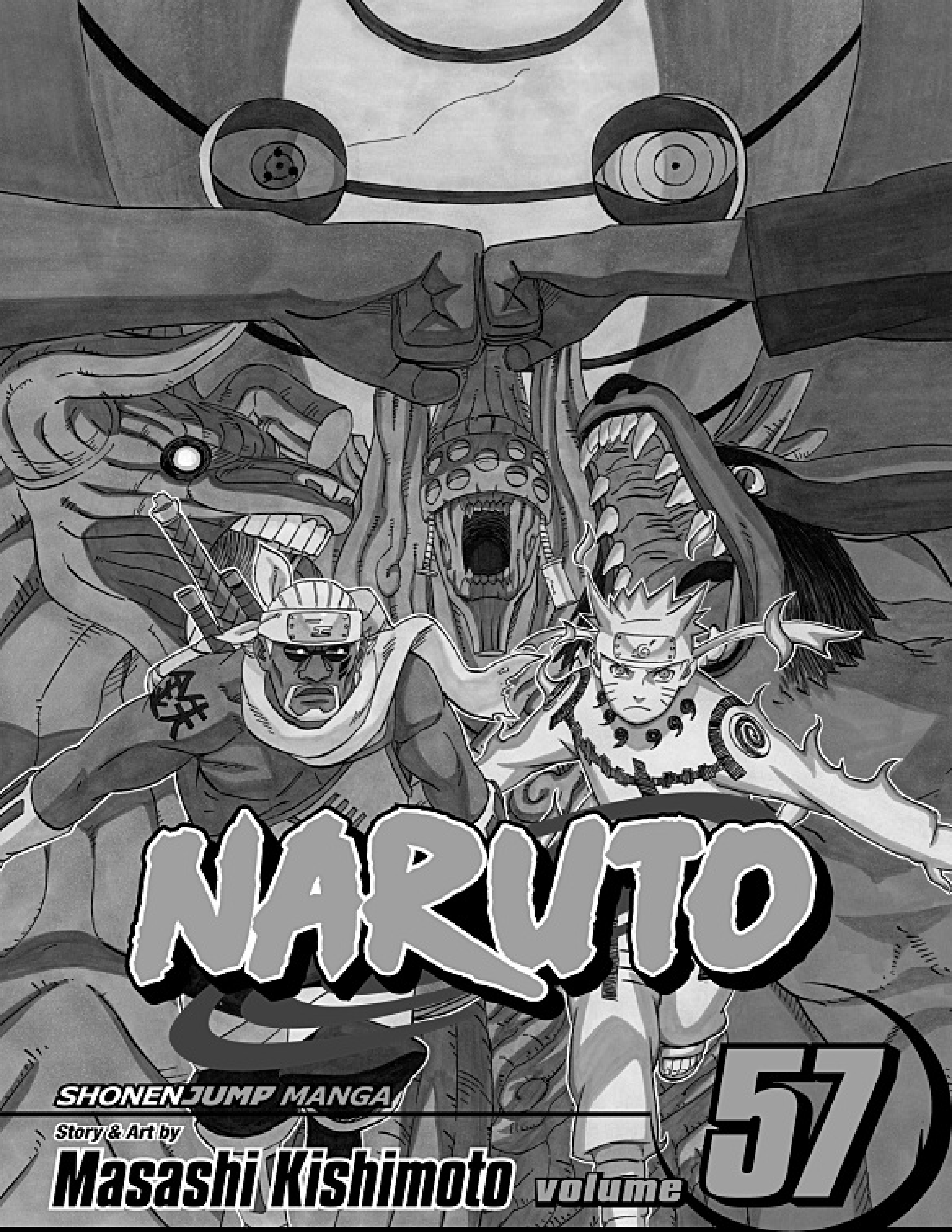
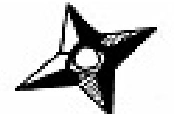

NARUTO
SHONENJUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume
57





岸 本 斉 史

Main character Naruto finally returns to center stage in this volume! I'm so glad to be able to draw the titular character again! I was told by someone that this was "a manga where the main character ~~isn't very involved~~ is used quite stingily," but he'll be really active from here on out!! ...I think! ...Er... Hmm, I wonder... I don't really know about the future... Well...

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2011

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 57
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

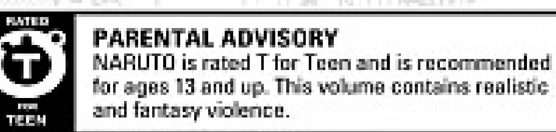
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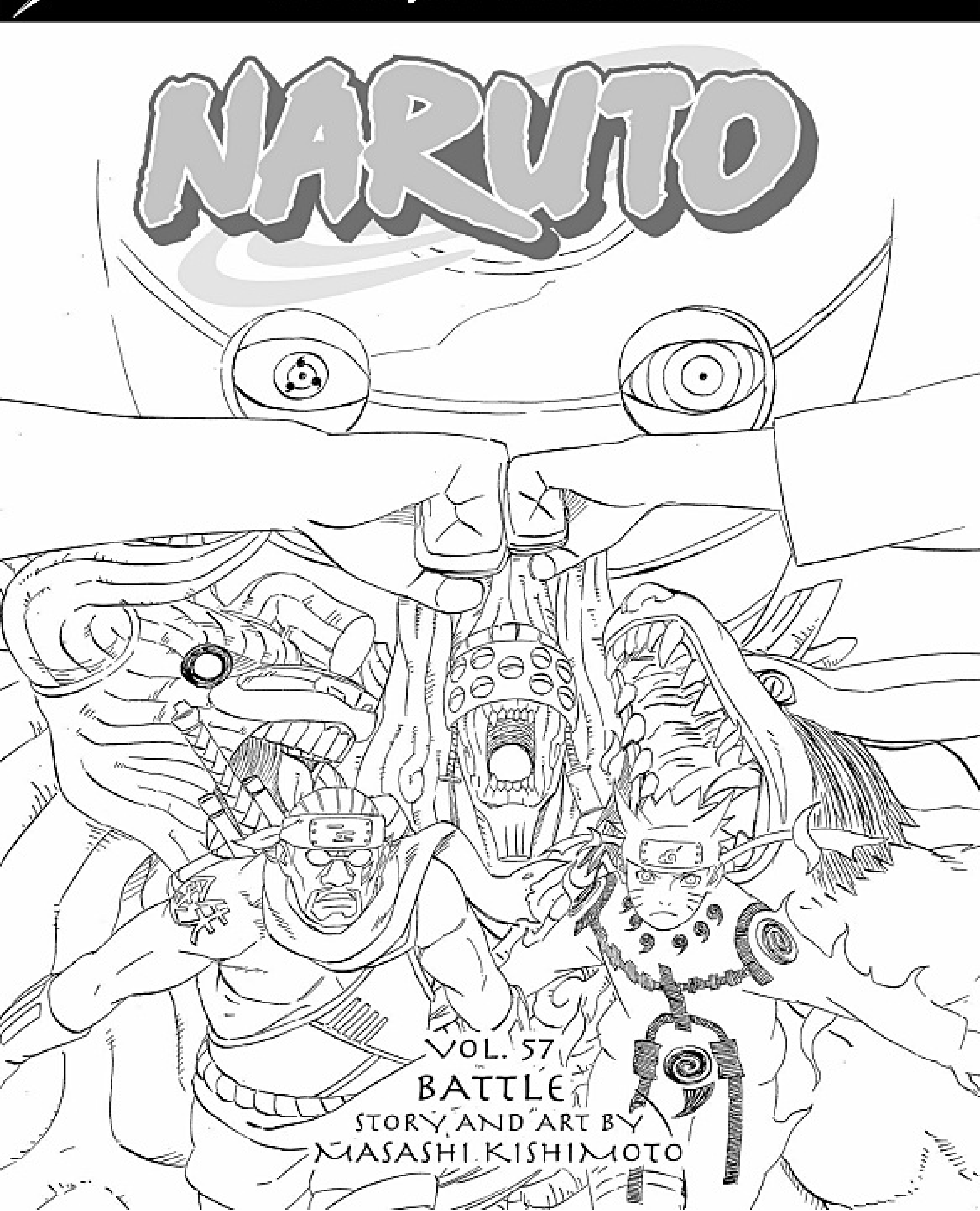
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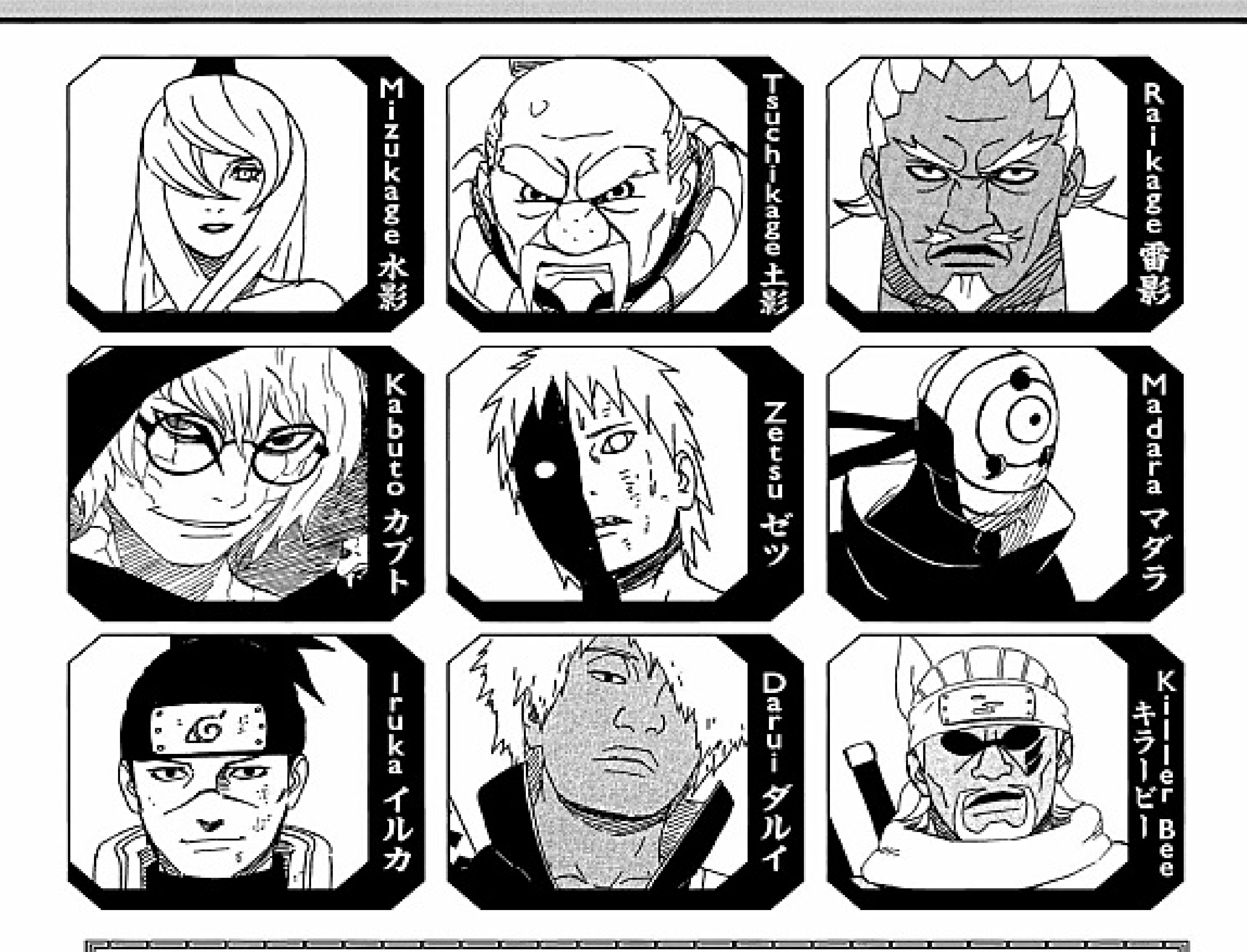






SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION





THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a full-fledged ninja. With his classmates Sasuke and Sakura, he endures countless trials and battles, growing ever stronger. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance for the death of his family, leaves Konoha to seek out the rogue ninja Orochimaru, who he believes will give him great power.

As two years pass, Naruto battles the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki organization while Sasuke triumphs over his murderous brother, Itachi. But new intel sets Sasuke, now aligned with the Akatsuki, on a new mission of revenge, this time against the village of Konoha itself.

Madara of the Akatsuki declares war on the Five Great Nations, prompting the Gokage, the five great leaders, to create an Allied Shinobi Force. The Fourth Great Ninja War begins. The Allied Forces confront an army of resurrected dead heroes and Naruto, still in the midst of training, attempts to sneak out and join the fray.

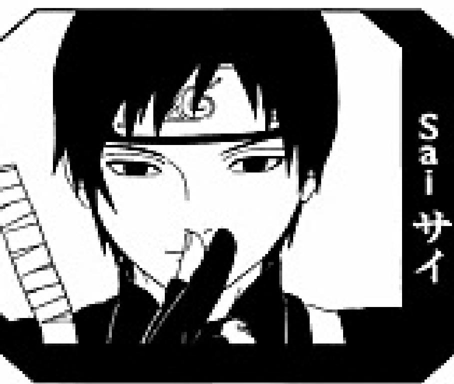
CHARACTERS


Naruto ナルト

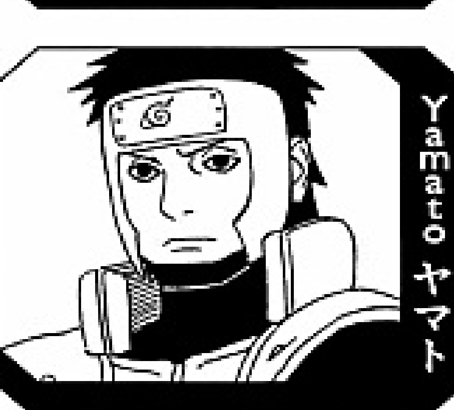

Sasuke サスケ

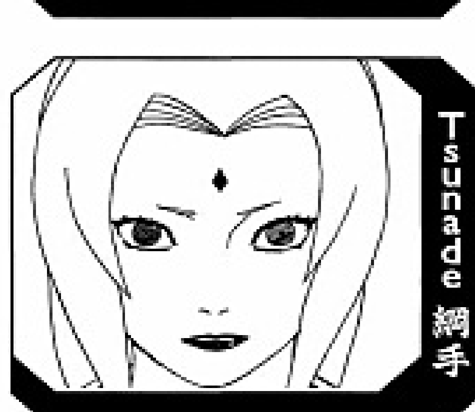

Kakashi カカシ

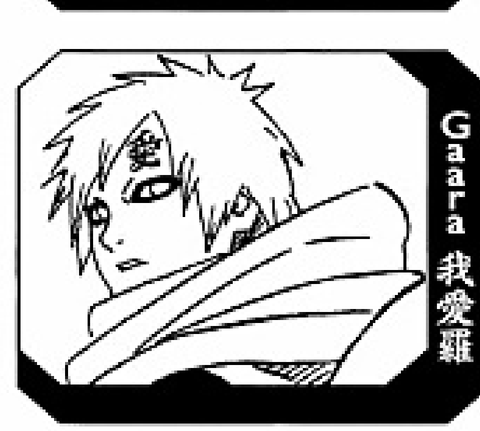

Sakura サクラ

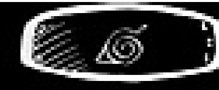

Sai サイ




Yamato ヤマト


Tsunade 綱手


Gaara 我愛羅



NARUTO

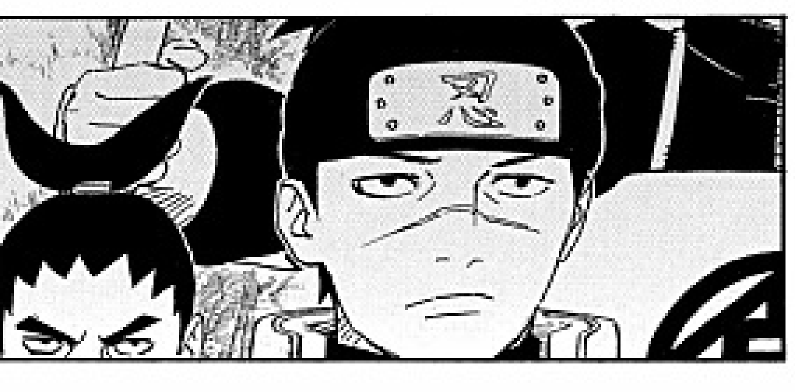
VOL. 57
BATTLE

CONTENTS

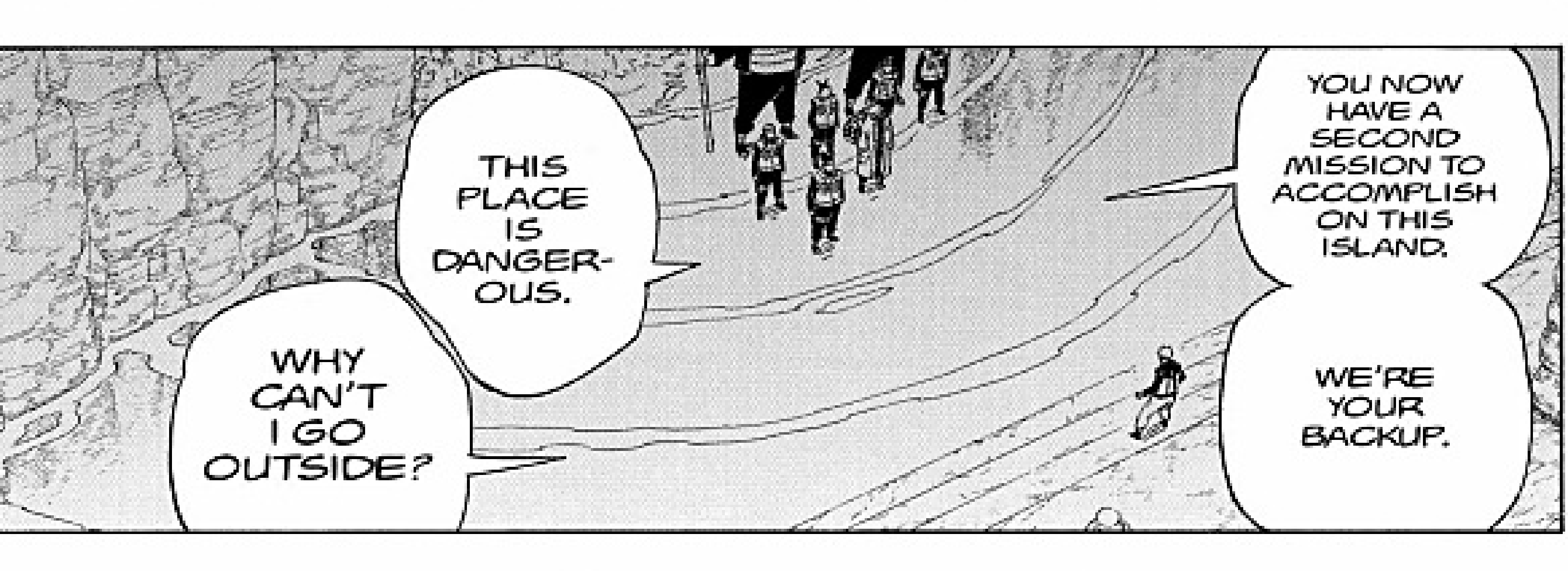


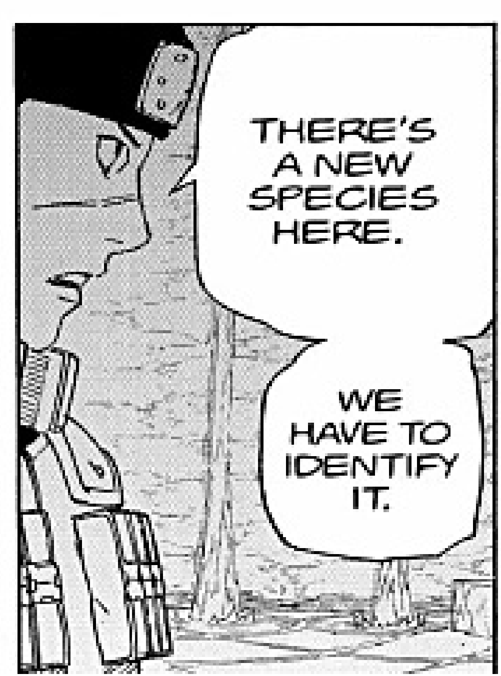
Number 535: Iruka's Impact





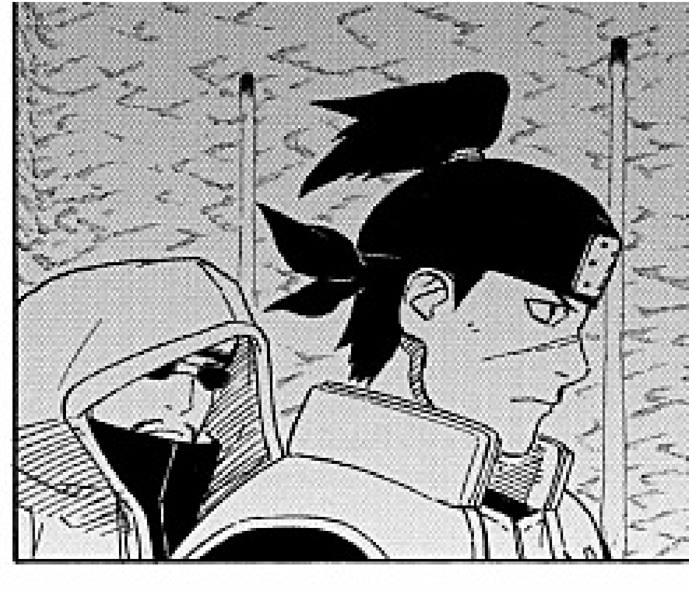


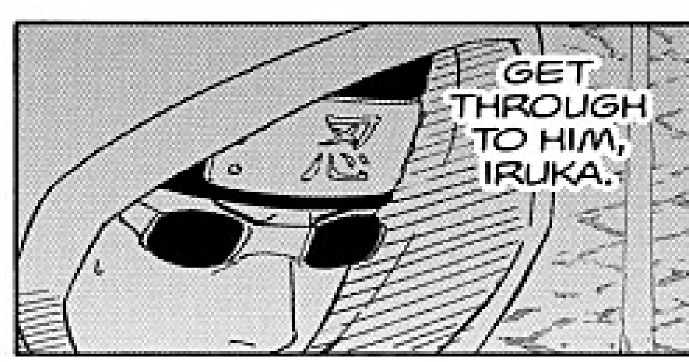




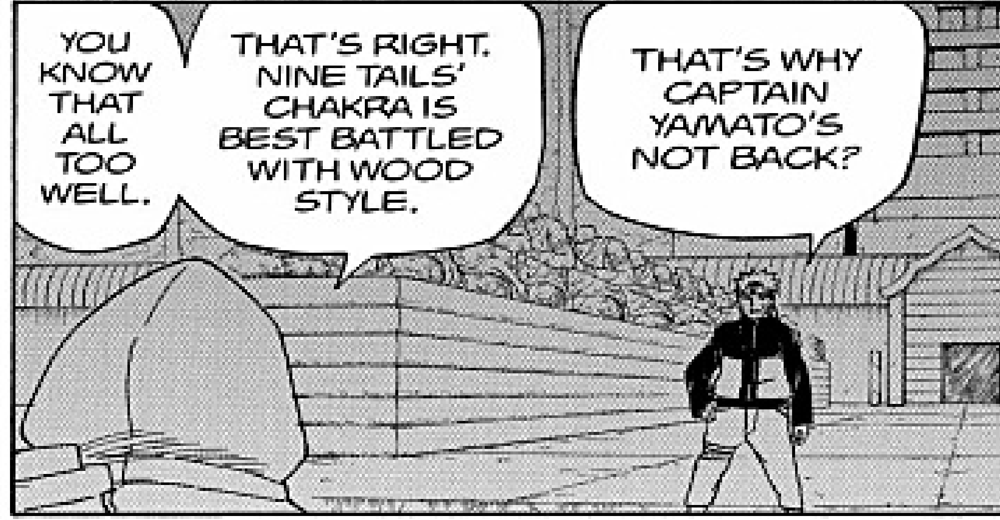






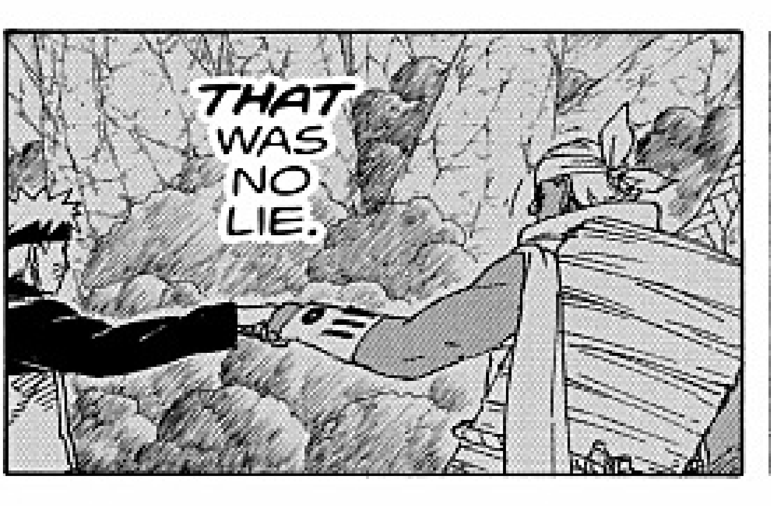

GET THROUGH TO HIM, IRUKA.


IT DOES APPEAR THAT THE CREATURE MAY POSSESS NINE TAILS' CHAKRA.
THOUGH THIS CREATURE IS NOT A TAILED BEAST.
IF YOU GO OUTSIDE AND THE CREATURE SOMEHOW RESPONDS TO THE NINE TAILS CHAKRA THAT YOU ALSO POSSESS, IT'S OVER FOR YOU.
YOU'VE GOT TO STAY HIDDEN.


THAT'S WHY CAPTAIN YAMATO'S NOT BACK?
THAT'S RIGHT. NINE TAILS' CHAKRA IS BEST BATTLED WITH WOOD STYLE.
YOU KNOW THAT ALL TOO WELL.


...
LET'S GO BACK IN.


MASTER BEE STANDS AT THE TOP OF THIS ISLAND'S HIERARCHY OF BEASTS. HE HAS TAMED THEM ALL.


THAT WAS NO LIE.

...

...

UNH!

I CAN STOP ANY CREATURES THAT MESS WITH ME!

LEMME OUT SO I CAN SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!!




SHOOM
DON'T LET HIM OUT!!
ON IT!!
WH
AM
WAP

OKAY! I'VE GOT HIM WITH SHADOW POSSES- SION!

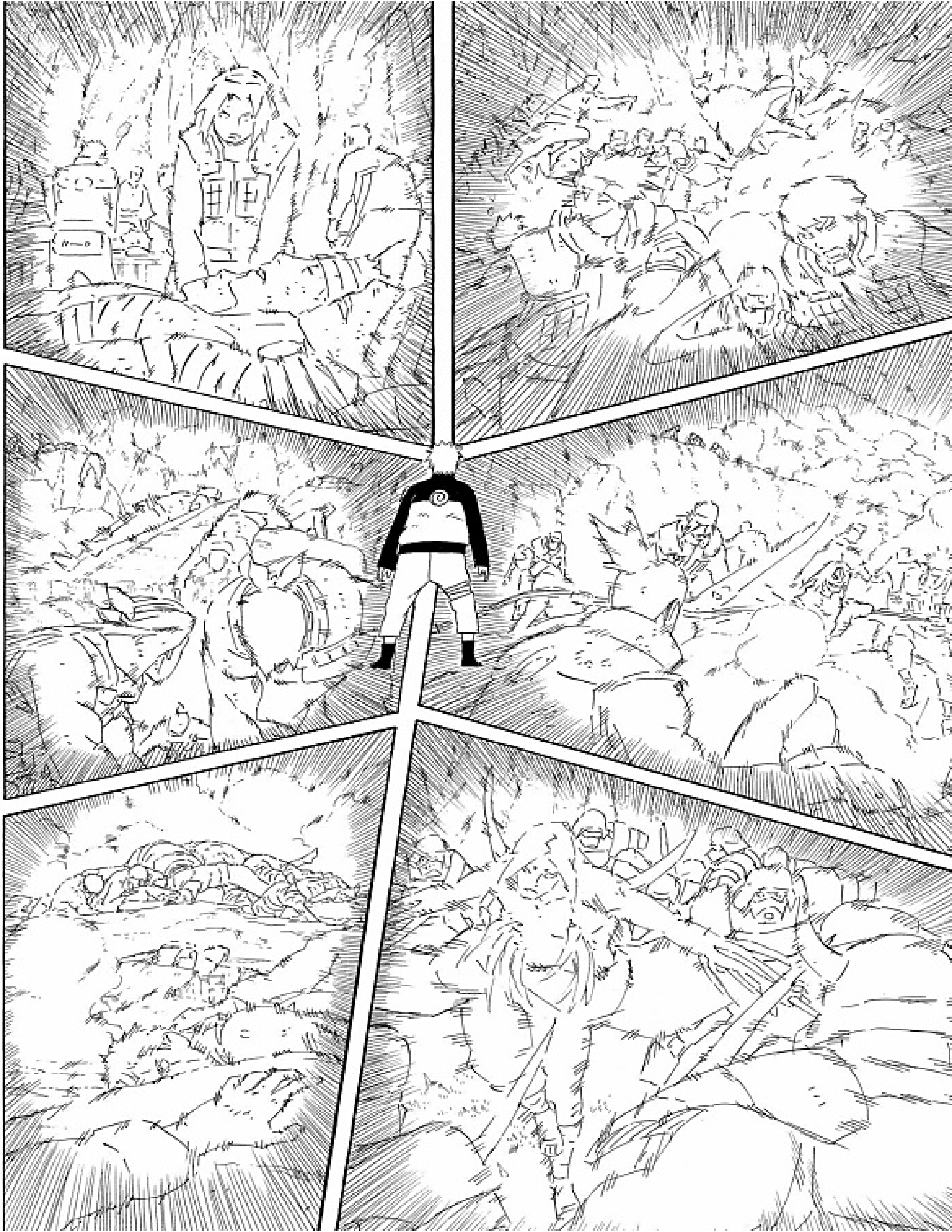
DOSH

WHAM



!!





WHAT?!


...
HE SENSED THINGS IN SENNIN MODE, HUH.
FSH


WHAT'S GOING ON?!!

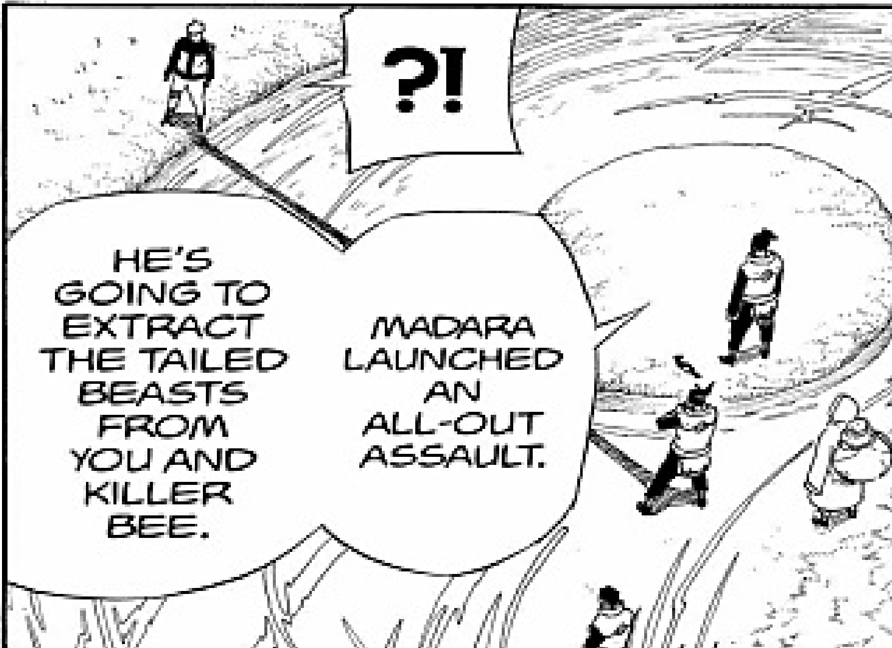

WAR.
MADARA'S WAR.


?!!

IRUKA, NO!!!
MISTER GEN, THE LYING STOPS NOW.
NARUTO CAN HANDLE IT.
HE NEEDS TO KNOW THE TRUTH.





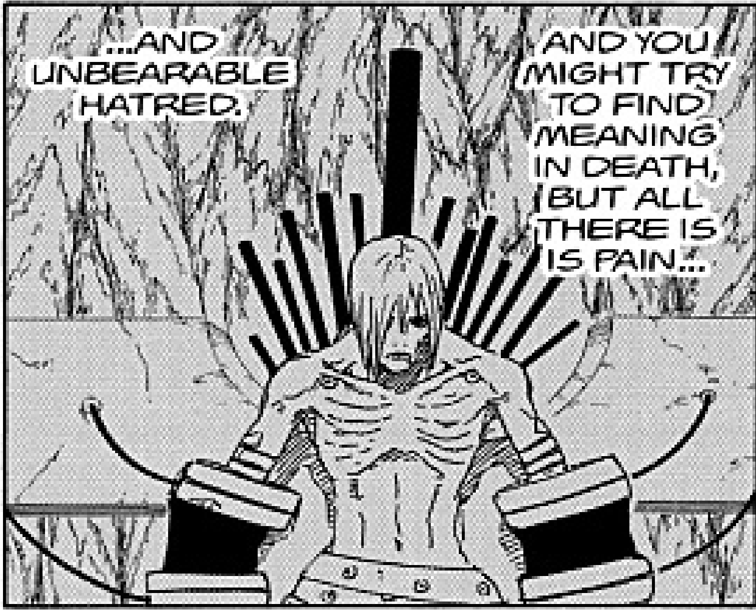





READ THIS WAY

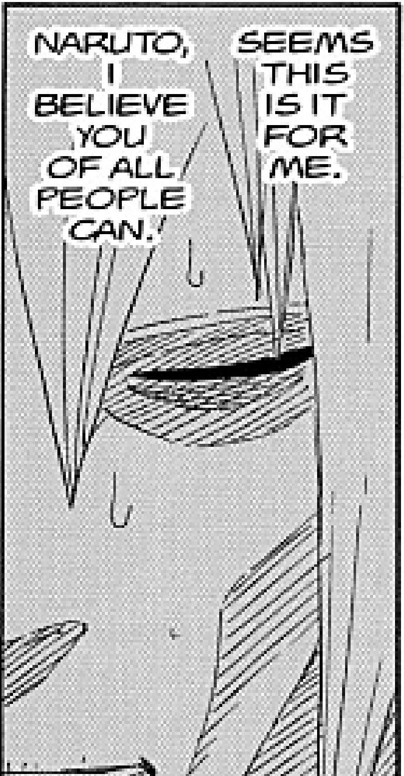

WE FIGHT TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT TO STAY HERE AND LET THAT HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU.


...


AND YOU MIGHT TRY TO FIND MEANING IN DEATH, BUT ALL THERE IS IS PAIN...
...AND UNBEARABLE HATRED.

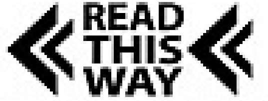

WASTEFUL DEATH, ETERNAL HATRED AND PAIN THAT DOES NOT HEAL.
THAT'S WHAT WAR IS.

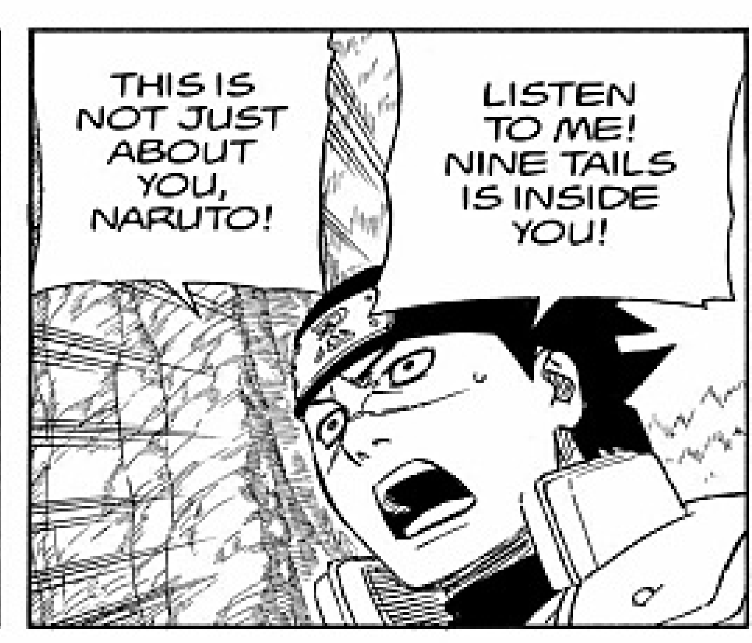

AND THOSE ARE THE THINGS YOU WILL FACE...
...IN THE COMING DAYS. NARUTO...

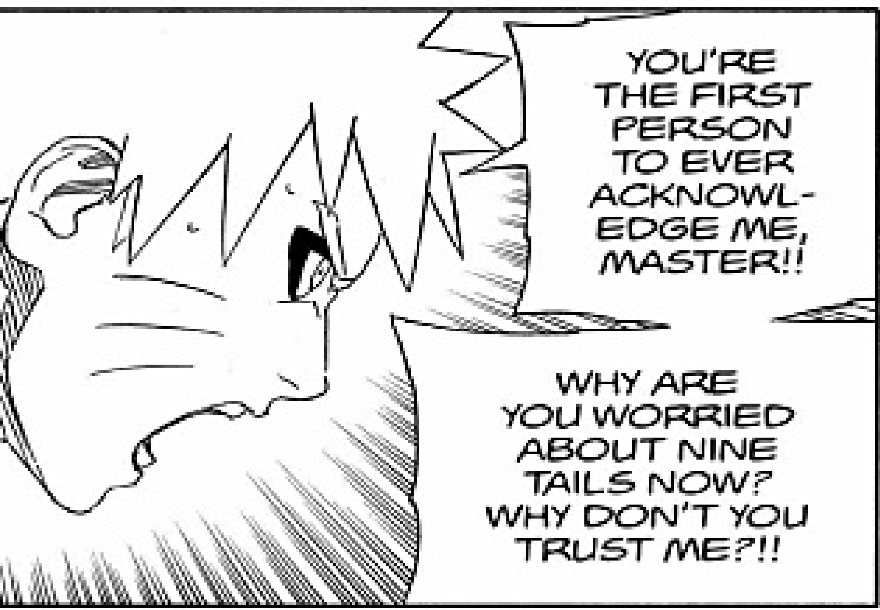

SEEMS THIS IS IT FOR ME.
NARUTO, I BELIEVE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE CAN.


NOW, LET'S GO BACK.

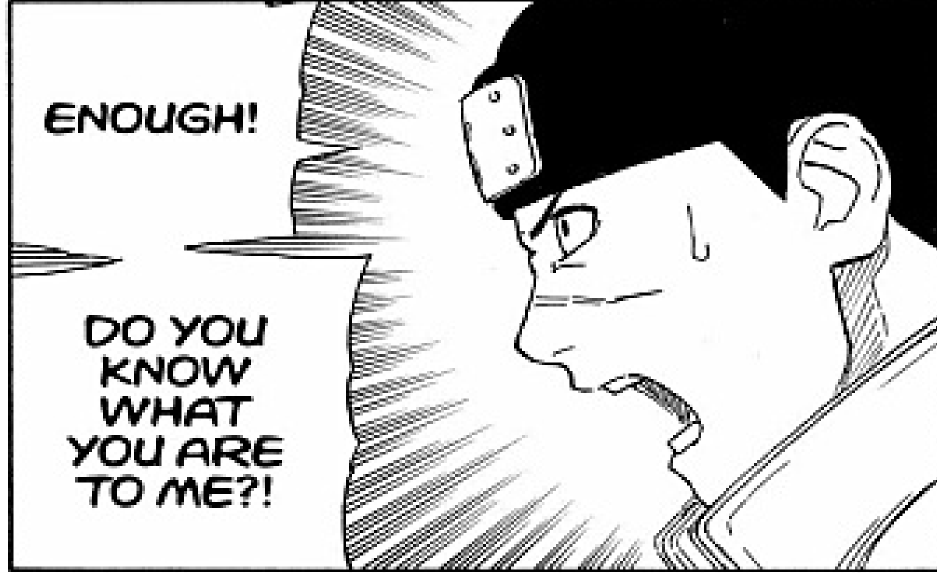

I CAN STOP THIS!!
I WILL FACE ETERNAL HATRED. I WILL FACE THE PAIN THAT DOES NOT HEAL!!
THAT'S MY ROLE!!

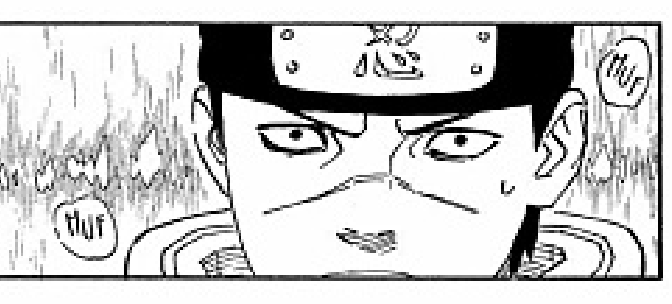

READ THIS WAY


LISTEN TO ME! NINE TAILS IS INSIDE YOU!
THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT YOU, NARUTO!


YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER ACKNOWL-EDGE ME, MASTER!!
WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT NINE TAILS NOW? WHY DON'T YOU TRUST ME?!!

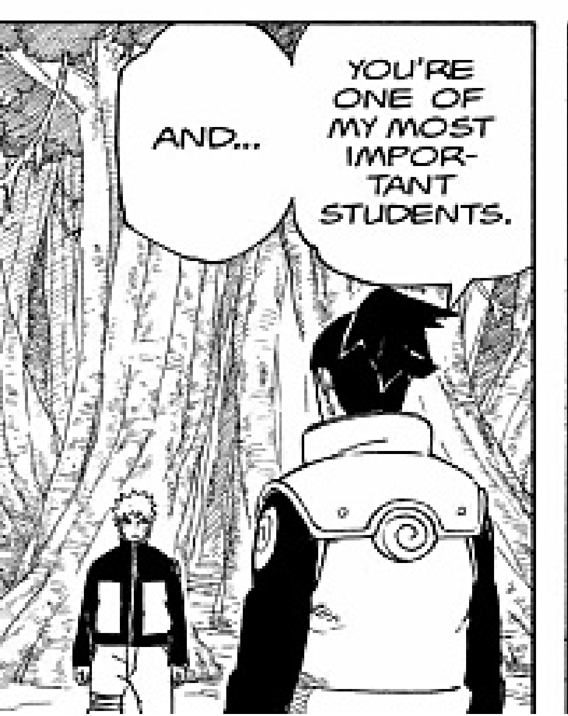

HUF
HUF


ENOUGH!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TO ME?!


HUF
HUF

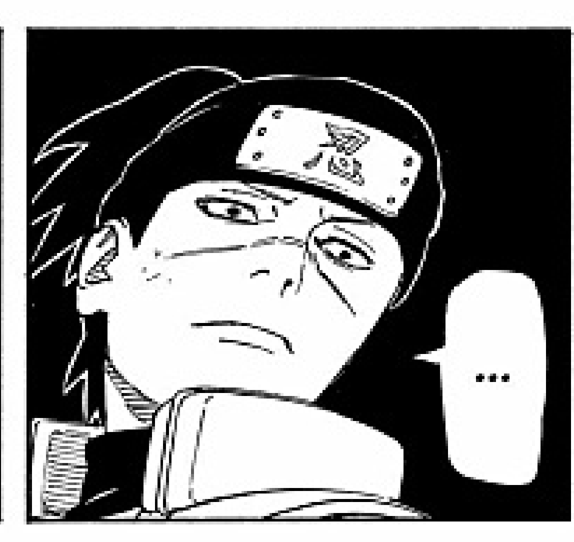

FOR HIM, I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT.
HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT.

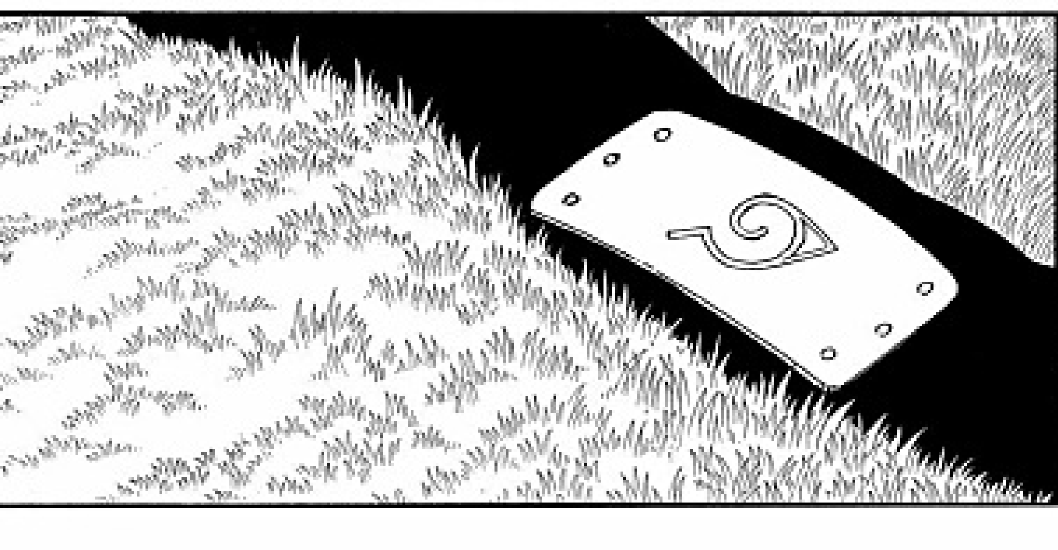

THAT BOY IS NO LONGER YOUR DEMON FOX.
HE IS A CITIZEN OF KONOHA-GAKURE VILLAGE, UZUMAKI NARUTO!


YOU'RE ONE OF MY MOST IMPOR-TANT STUDENTS.
AND...


...YOU'RE AS CLOSE TO ME AS A LITTLE BROTHER.
SSH
OUR ENEMY IS SEEKING YOU OUT... TO KILL YOU.
HOW AM I GOING TO STAND HERE AND LET THAT HAPPEN?
WHY SHOULD YOU CONTINUE TO BEAR THE BURDENS OF EVERYONE ELSE?
BUT I'M STRONG! I'M NOT JUST SOME LITTLE KID ANYMORE!
YOU GAVE ME THE HEAD-BAND!
...













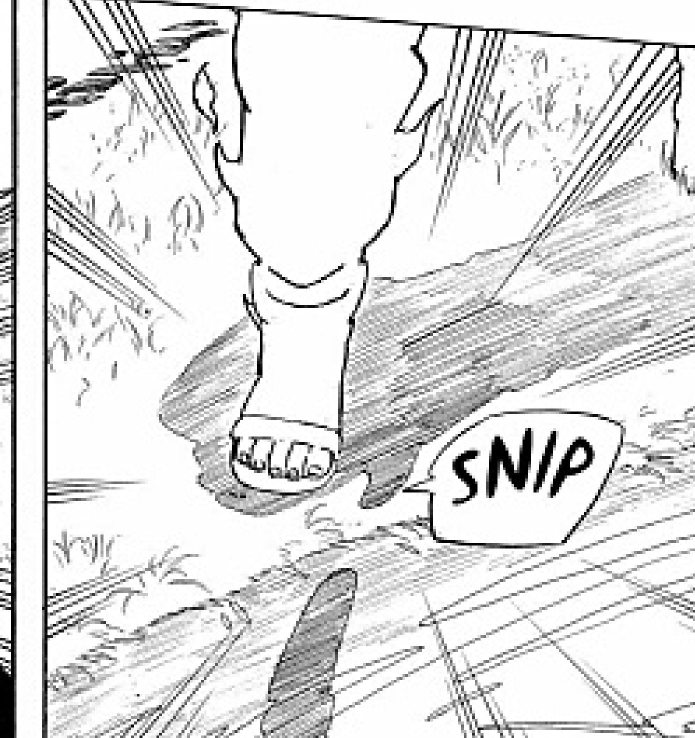


SHF

NO.
I STILL WON'T LET YOU GO.





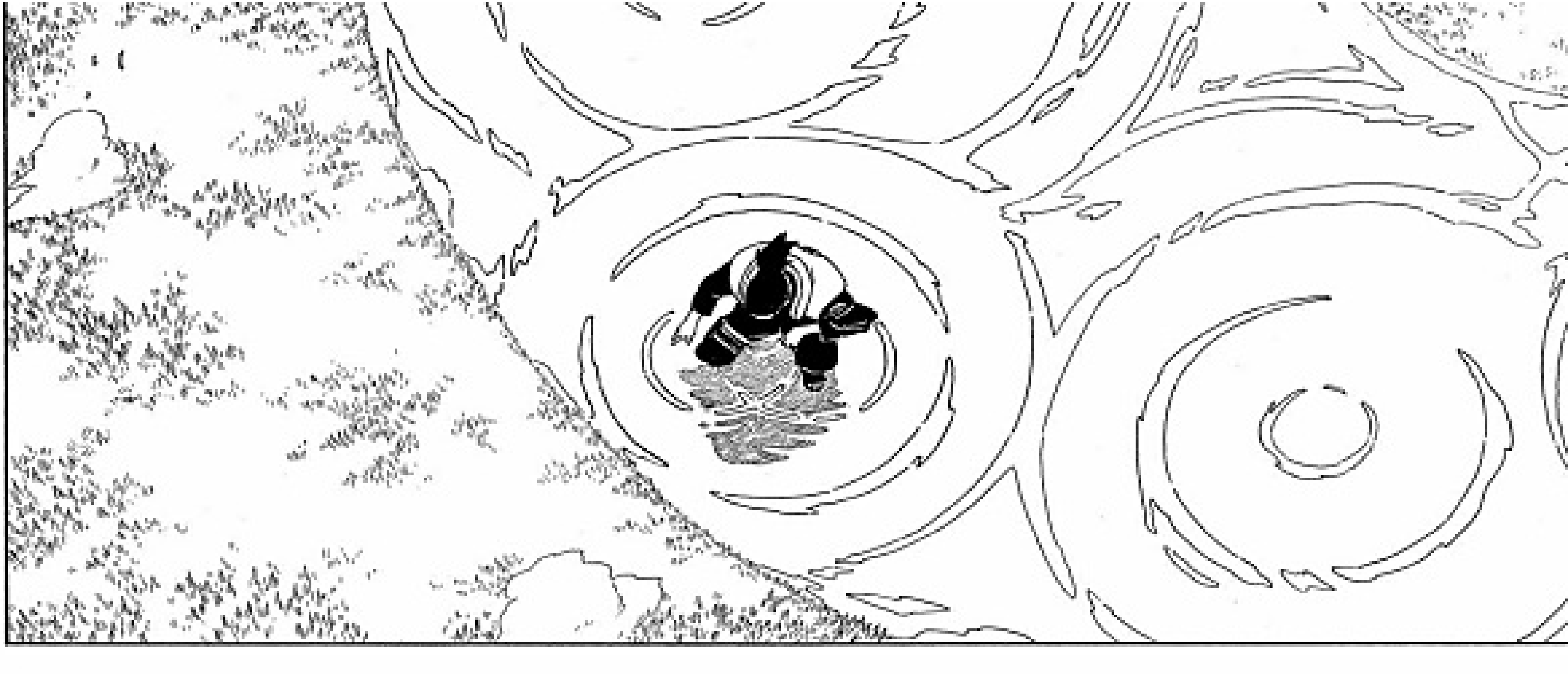




WHAM
UNGH !!
BOOOSH
THE REST OF YOU, AFTER HIM! *NOW!*
YES-SIR!
TEMUI, BARRIER CORPS NEED TO KNOW... NARUTO'S COMING!
MY BEETLES CAN'T HANDLE ALL THIS NINE TAILS CHAKRA!!











THE FACT THAT YOU'RE READING THIS MEANS I COULDN'T STOP YOU.

I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO RUSH TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

お前のことだ、すぐに戦場へ駆

ようとするだろう。

覚悟は知ってる。

オレは













COME BACK ALIVE!!!

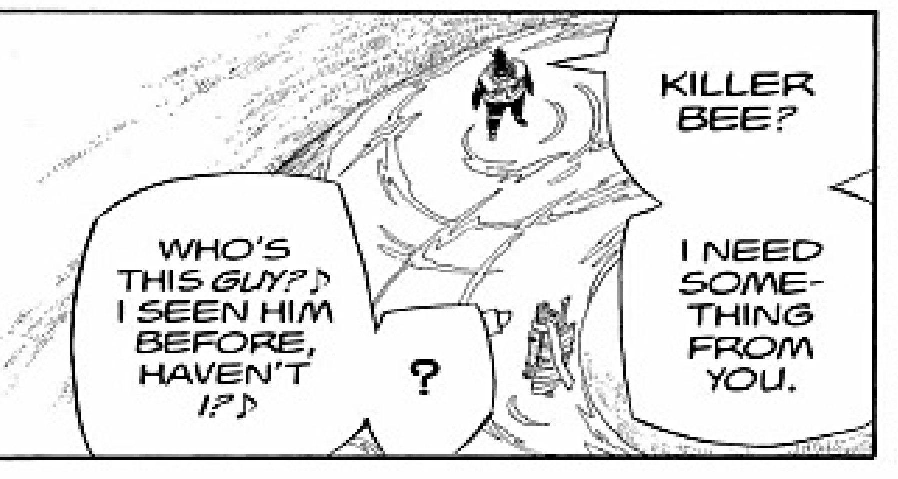
WHOOSH


UNH!


I'M WEAK. I THINK OF MYSELF AS YOUR BIG BROTHER, BUT I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT YOU.
FORGIVE ME, NARUTO.


Number 536: Battle...!!


...


KILLER BEE?
I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.
WHO'S THIS GUY?♪ I SEEN HIM BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?♪
?


THE SMALL FOOL IS ALREADY GONE?
!
SLOSH


LEMME SHOW YOU HOW.♪
YOU DON'T NEED TO BOW.♪
FSH
LIKE THIS?


...

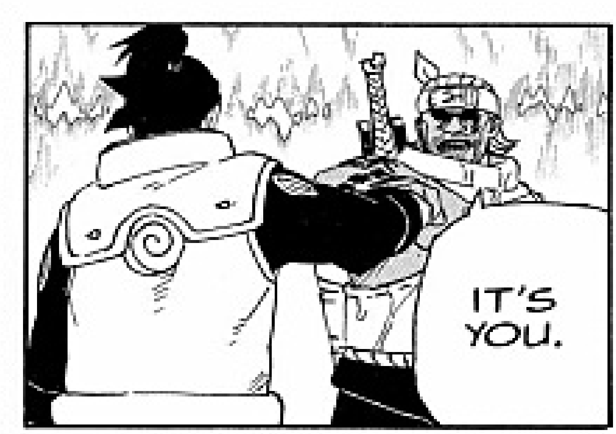

KEEP NARUTO SAFE, PLEASE, SIR!!!

?

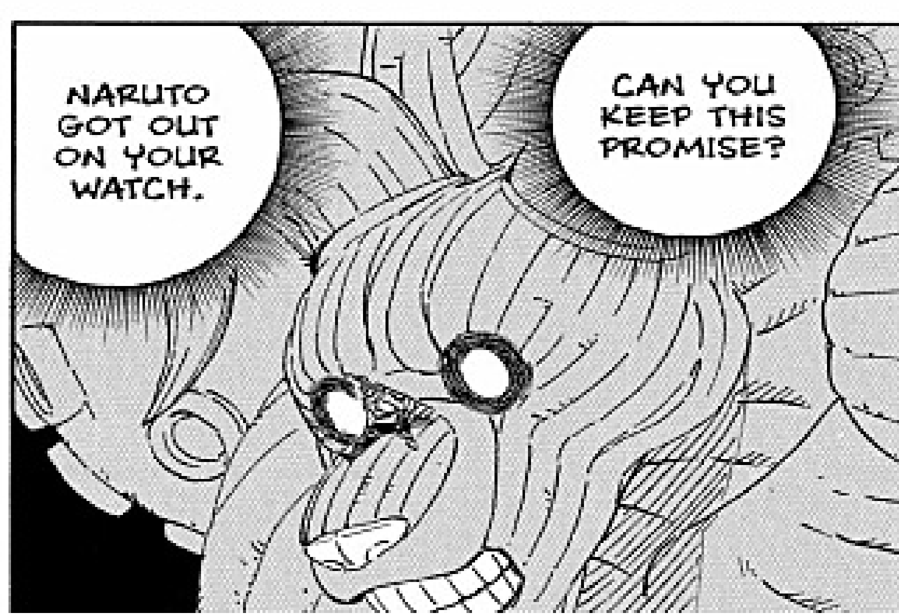
BAM

NOW YOU GOT ME, FOOL!!












...!
YOU'RE PART OF NARUTO'S PRIVATE CLAN.♪
PRI-VATE CLAN?
NARUTO NEEDS YOU.
WHAT-EVER YOU DONE.♪
TO NARUTO YOU SHINE LIKE THE SUN.♪
SHOOM
NARUTO LISTENS TO ALL YOU SAY.♪
CHOMP CHOMP
CHEW
CHEW

HE'LL OWE YOU HIS LIFE TILL HIS DYING DAY.♪

HUNH...

URK

URK



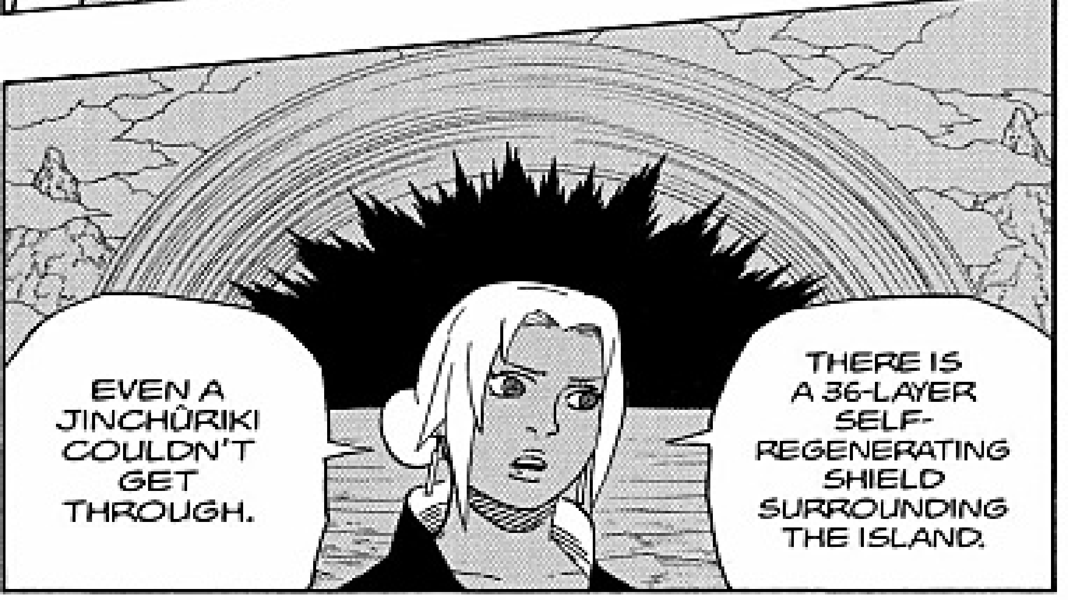

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO?
I'VE TIRED OF PLAYING CARDS.
THU
D
UGH!!
TAK
K
FOUND YA! HERE YOU ARE!!
SO I TAKE YOU OUT FIRST, EH?
SCREEECH
WHAM

WHAM WHAM
WHAM WHAM WHAM
NO. WE TAKE *YOU* OUT!










WHOOSH
IN-COMING! IT'S NARUTO!
BARRIER CORPS, READY!
TIME FOR OUR BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS TO SHOW WHAT WE CAN DO WITH THIS IMPENETRABLE BARRIER!
HE WILL *NOT* PASS!!
ALL HQ WILL HEAR FROM US IS "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, SUBJECT DETAINED"!!!
UNDER-STAND?
WHOA!!
VOOSH

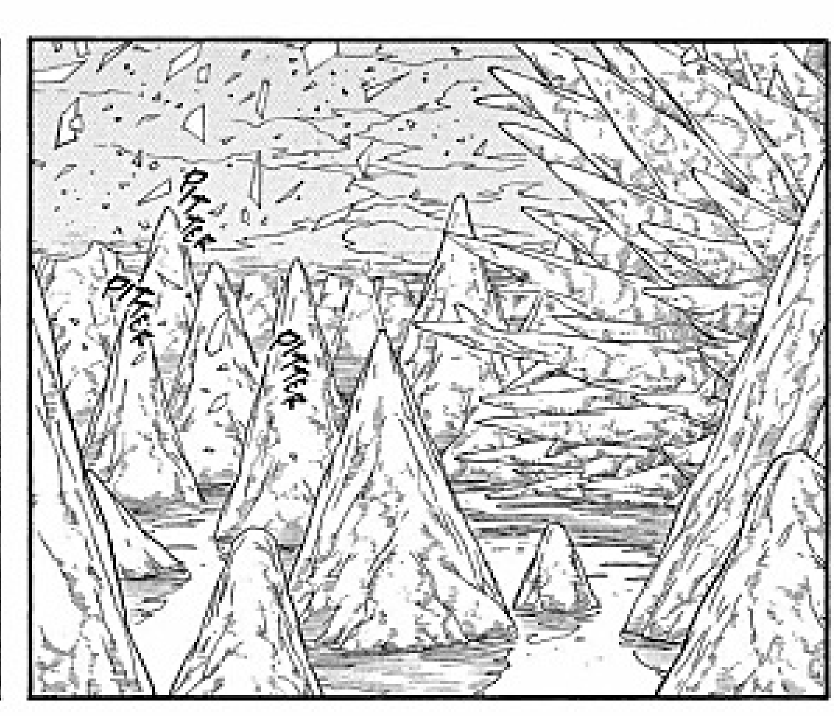

PLINK PLINK PLINK PLINK
?!!
!!
WHAT ?!
THAT UP AHEAD IS THE *SHIELD.*♪
TOGETHER WE BUST THIS *FIELD.*♪
OCTO-POPS !!
ZWWWW

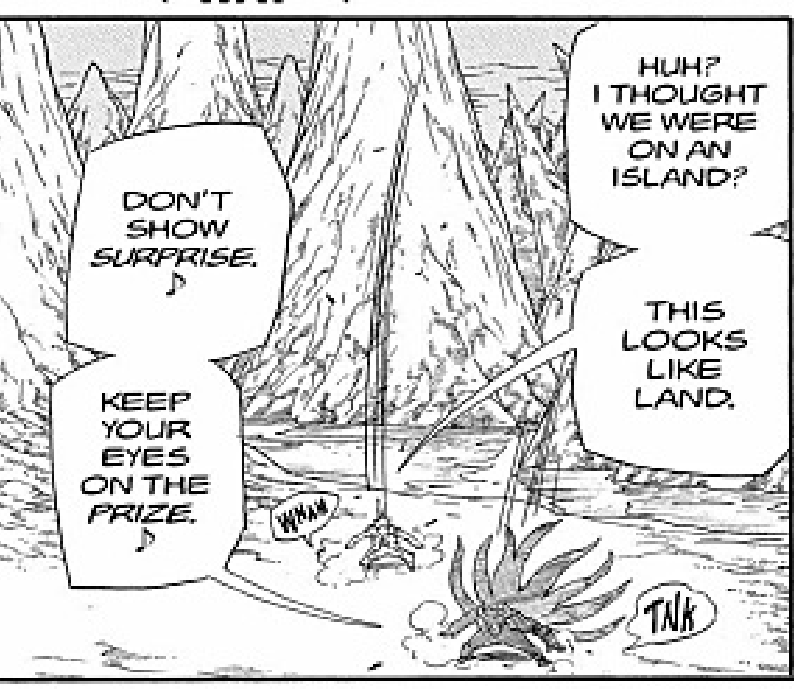


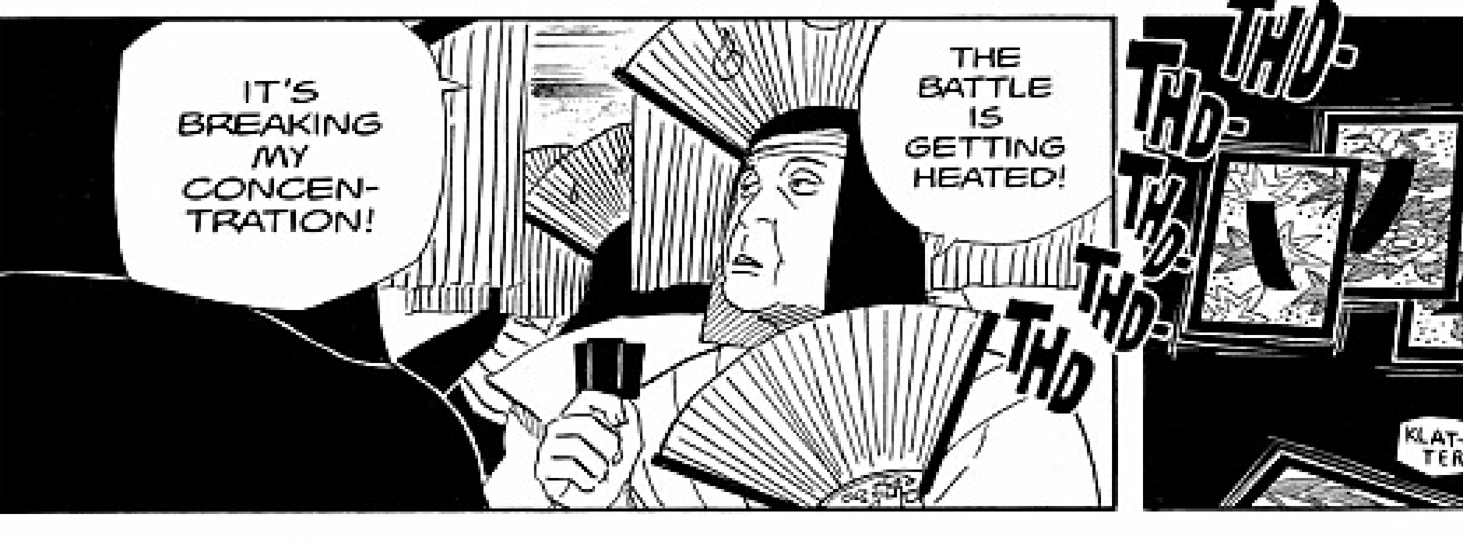
PLINK
KILLER BEE TOO?
I GOT THE FIELD, FOOL!!
YOU GET THE BIJU BOMB IN LITTLE FOOL!!
ZWP
BZP BZP BZP
OKAY!!
THUD
THWAK
KRINKLE KRINKLE KRINKLE


IT'S NO GOOD!!
THE BARRIER CAN'T REGENERATE FAST ENOUGH!!
THEN WE LOSE!
FOOSH
SO WE TELL HQ WHAT EXACTLY?
MISSION FAILED!!!
YEAH, FIGURED.
KRINKLE
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
WE'RE OUT!!
CRASH
TWO JINCHŪRIKI.
NOT EXPECTED.
...


READ THIS WAY

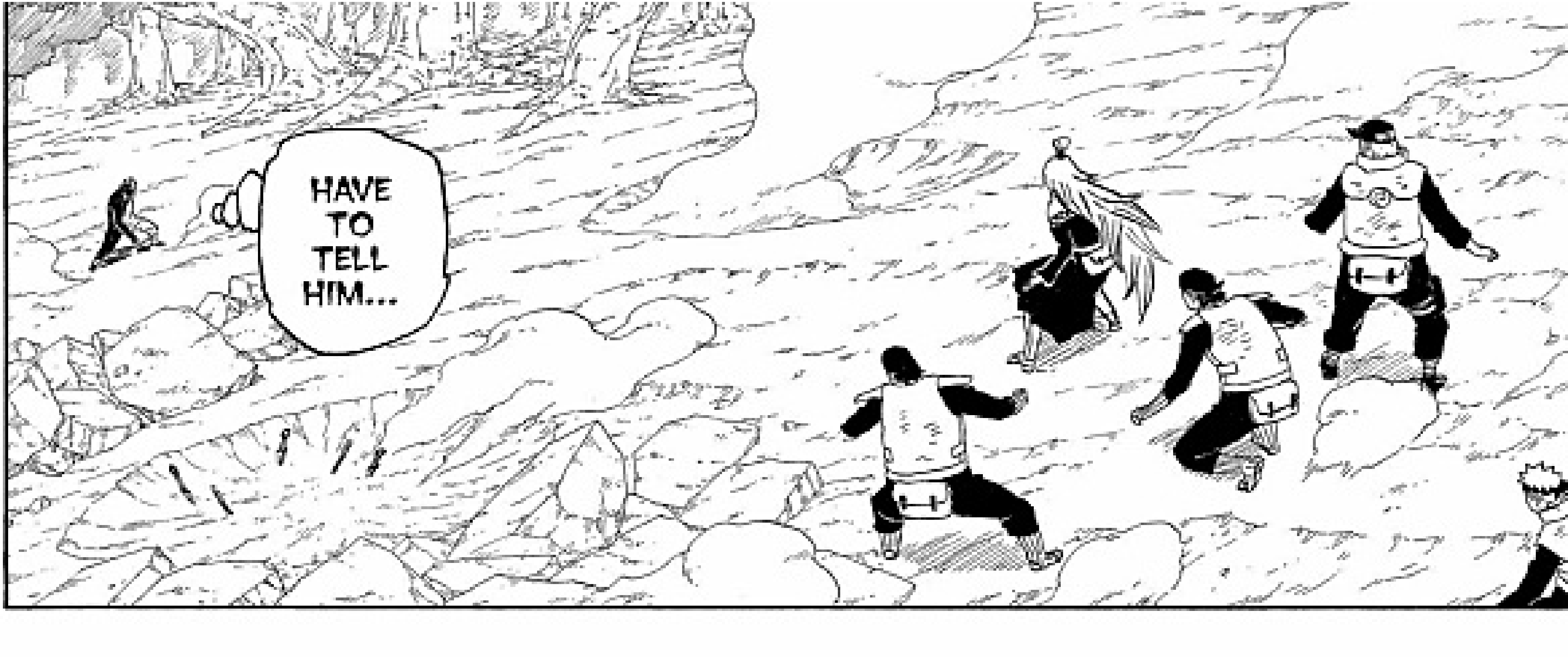



HUH? I THOUGHT WE WERE ON AN ISLAND?
THIS LOOKS LIKE LAND.
DON'T SHOW *SURPRISE.* ♪
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE *PRIZE.* ♪
TNK


THD-
THD-
THD-
THD-
THD
KLAT-TER
KLAT-TER
THE BATTLE IS GETTING HEATED!
IT'S BREAKING MY CONCEN-TRATION!


...!!


EIGHT AND NINE TAILS' CHAKRA ...
...HAVE EMERGED!

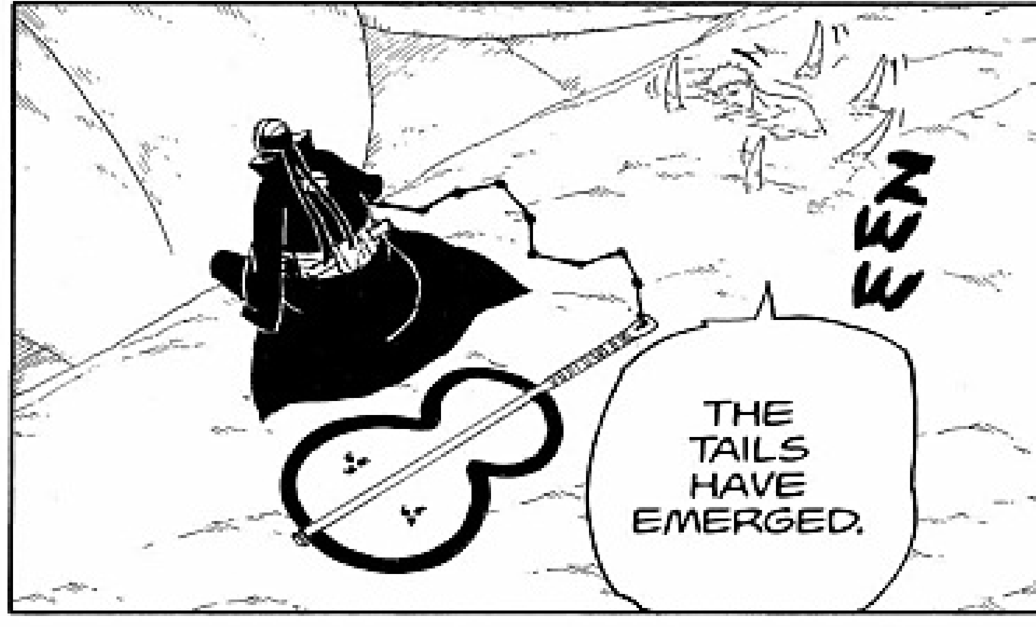

HAVE TO TELL HIM...

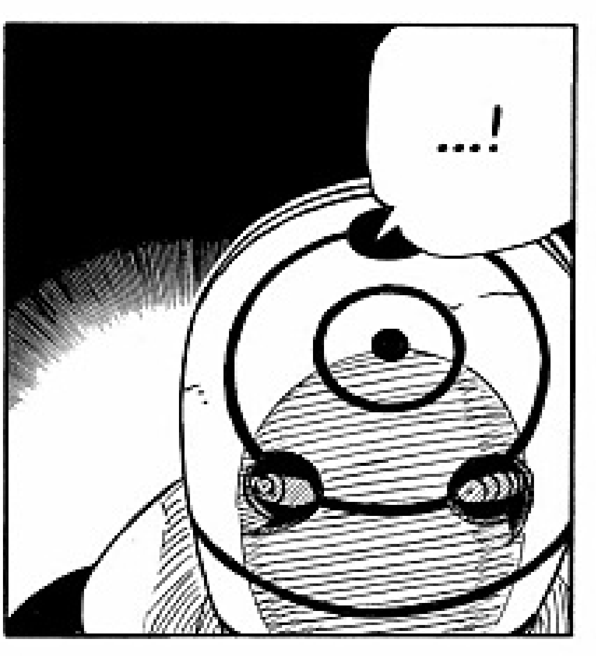

ZW
ZWWW


ZWOO
ABZZZZ


PLICH
ZWOOO

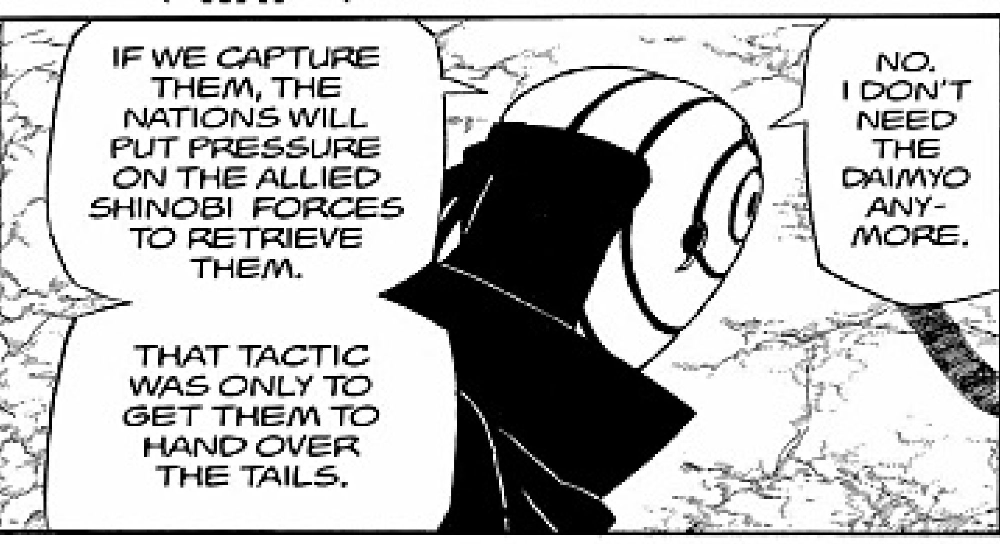

BZZ BZZ BZZ BZZ BZ

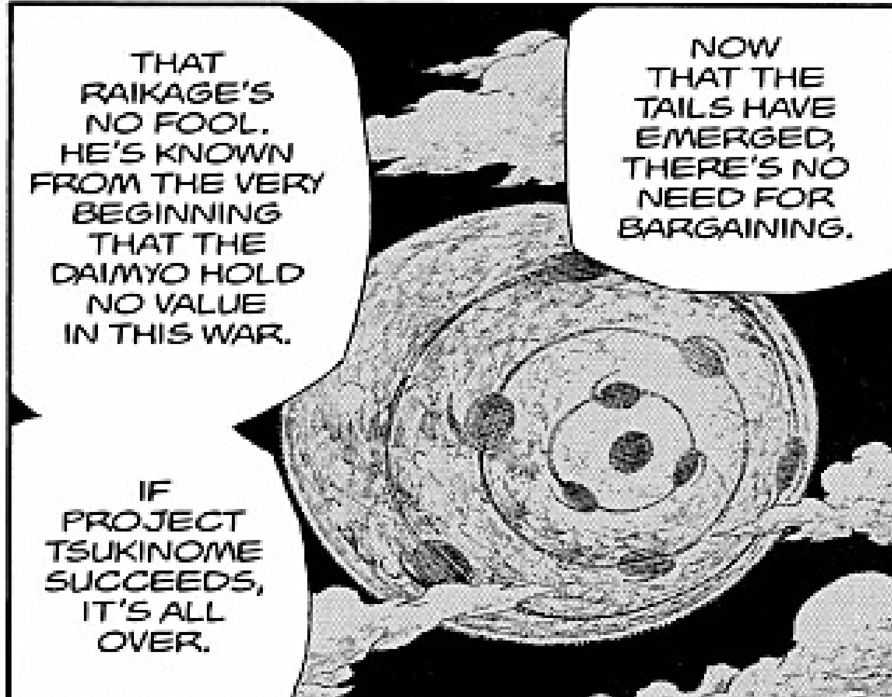

ZWW
THE TAILS HAVE EMERGED.


...!


READ THIS WAY


THEY ARE BACK IN OUR REALM.
SHALL WE KIDNAP THE DAIMYO TO USE FOR BARGAIN-ING?


NO. I DON'T NEED THE DAIMYO ANY-MORE.
IF WE CAPTURE THEM, THE NATIONS WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THE ALLIED SHINOBI FORCES TO RETRIEVE THEM.
THAT TACTIC WAS ONLY TO GET THEM TO HAND OVER THE TAILS.


NOW THAT THE TAILS HAVE EMERGED, THERE'S NO NEED FOR BARGAINING.
THAT RAIKAGE'S NO FOOL. HE'S KNOWN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT THE DAIMYO HOLD NO VALUE IN THIS WAR.
IF PROJECT TSUKINOME SUCCEEDS, IT'S ALL OVER.


AWW. BUT BLACK ZETSU IS READY TO TAKE ON THE MIZU-KAGE.
THAT'S PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE. WE'RE NOT PULLING OUT YET.


HAVE BLACK ZETSU CONTINUE HIS GUERRILLA ASSAULT.
FSH
IF HE CAN STALL THE MIZUKAGE AND HER MEN WHERE THEY ARE, THAT'LL SPLIT UP THE ENEMY'S BATTLE STRENGTH.


ALRIGHT, THEN.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOBI?

IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR ME TO JOIN THE FIGHT.

FIRST, I'M GOING TO STEAL SOME ***POWER.***

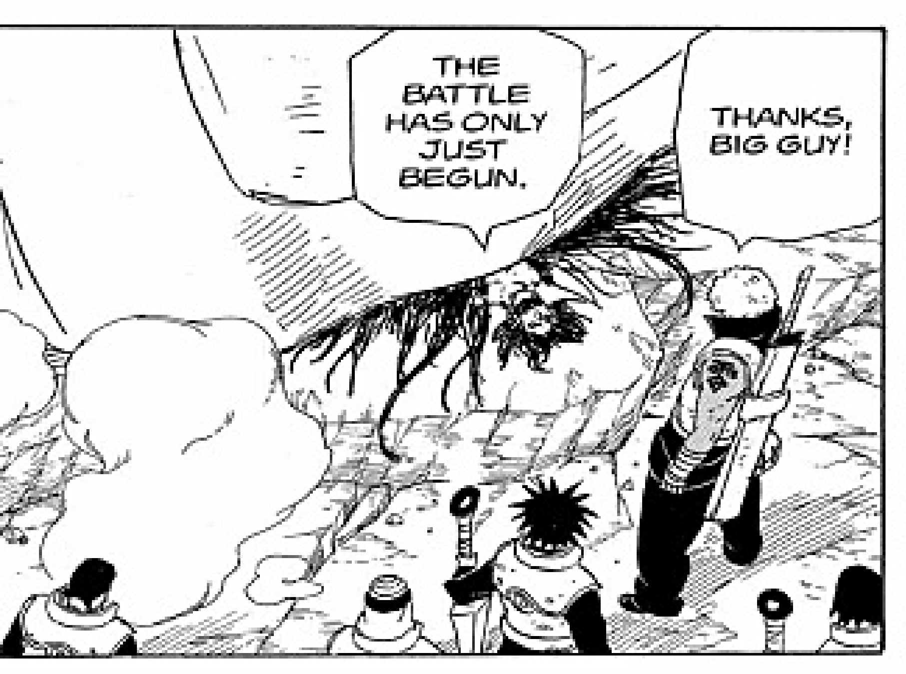
HUF HUF

GOOD WORK!




THIS IS THE LAST ONE!
YES-SIR!


YOU'VE USED UP TOO MUCH CHAKRA! YOU CAN'T USE THE FAN AGAIN.
?
HELP ME. I'M DYING...


THE BATTLE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.
THANKS, BIG GUY!

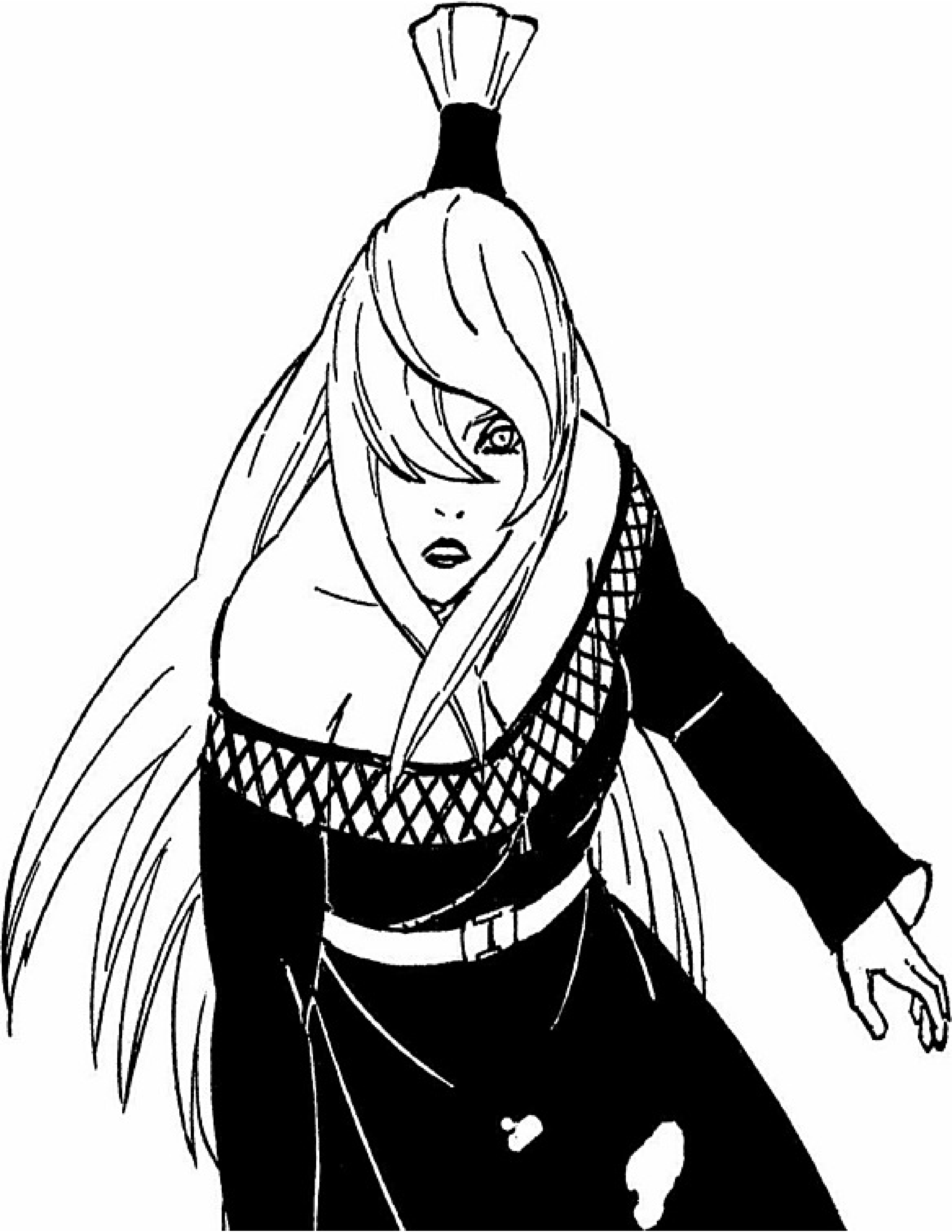



KUCHIYOSE SUMMONING.
SH
UP


UM. WE JUST WON.


WHAT'S THAT?!!

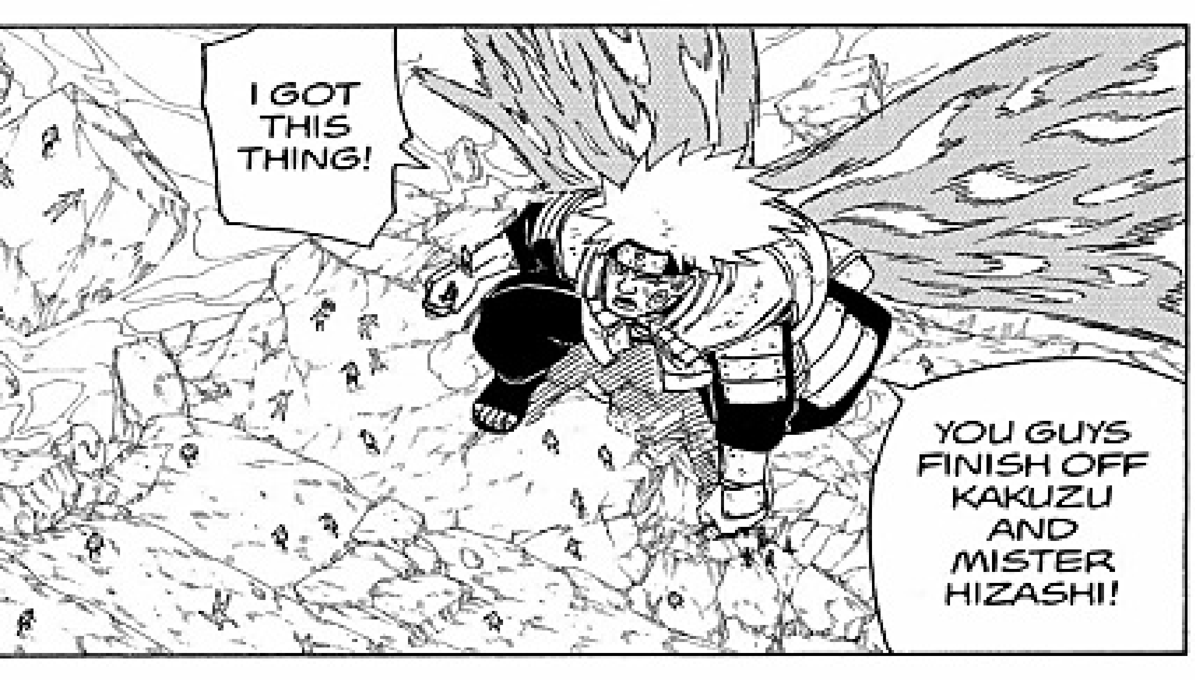

Y-
YOU'RE!
N-NO
WAY!
!
THOOM
RAAAAAWR!!



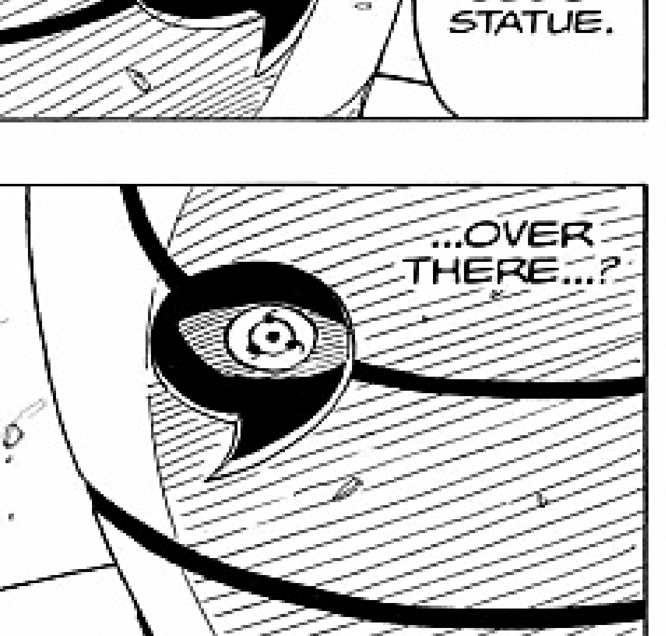

WHAT IS THAT?!
THIS FEELS WRONG.
IT'S BIGGER THAN CHOJI!


UH...
IT'S NOT JUST BIG.
UM. WE JUST **WON**.


COME, CHOJI!!


I GOT THIS THING!
YOU GUYS FINISH OFF KAKUZU AND MISTER HIZASHI!

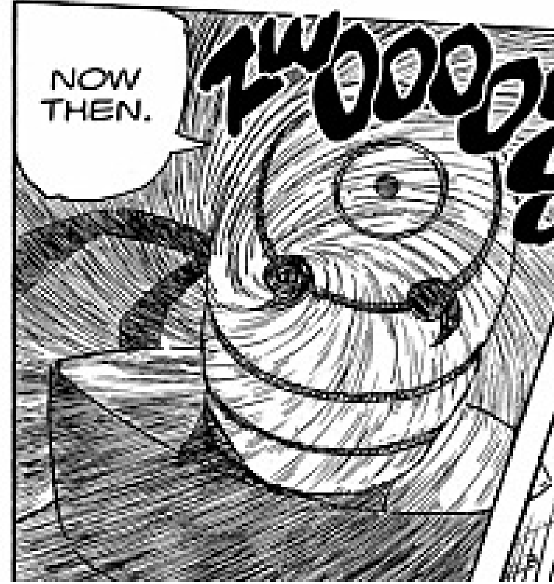

Number 537: Toward Nightfall...!!


GO! GEDO STATUE.
...OVER THERE...?


THOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WAH!
THWAK
CHOJI, NOW!!


BOOM
VOOOSH
UGH!
WAAH!!
GRRR.
DID I STOP IT?!
RAAAWR!!





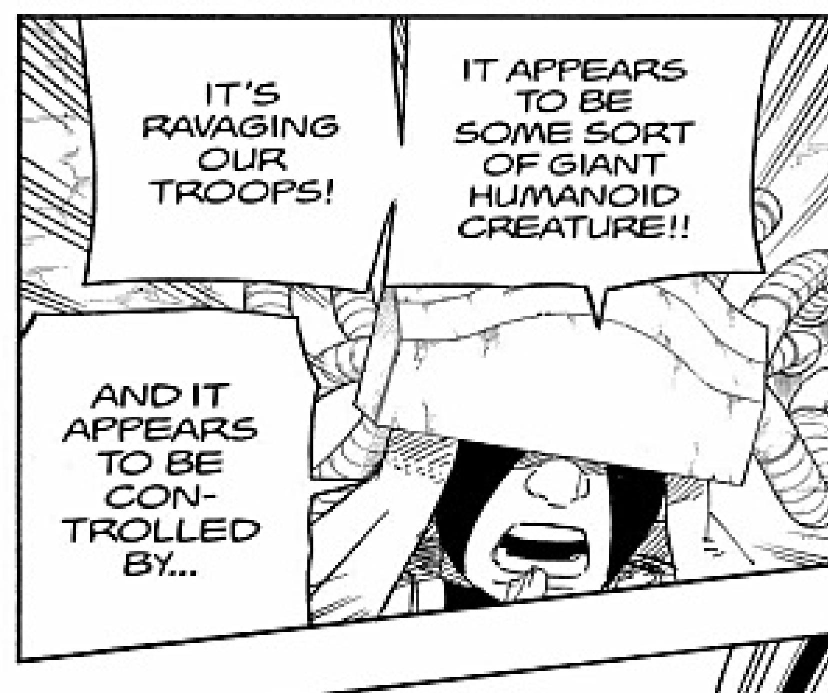
SHOOM
SHOOM

NO TIME TO WASTE!!

!
SAVE YOUR POWER♪
YOU'LL NEED IT FOR THE FINAL HOUR.♪


VOOOOSH
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
ARGH!
WAAAAH!!

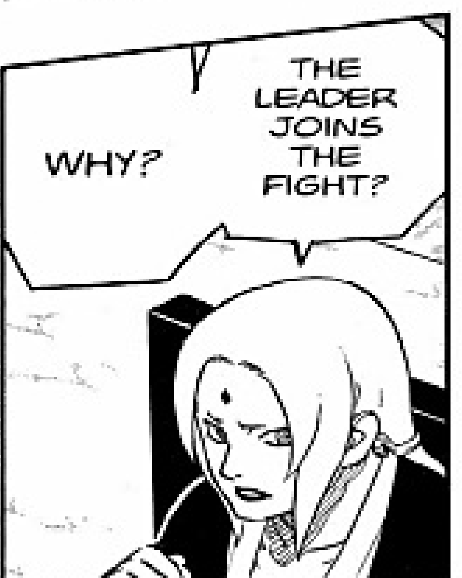

INCREDIBLE CHAKRA!!
SOME KIND OF IMMENSE CHAKRA FIELD HAS APPEARED ON THE BATTLEFIELD IN THE VICINITY OF DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY!!
WHAT IS IT?!


IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF GIANT HUMANOID CREATURE!!
IT'S RAVAGING OUR TROOPS!
AND IT APPEARS TO BE CON-TROLLED BY...


WHO?!

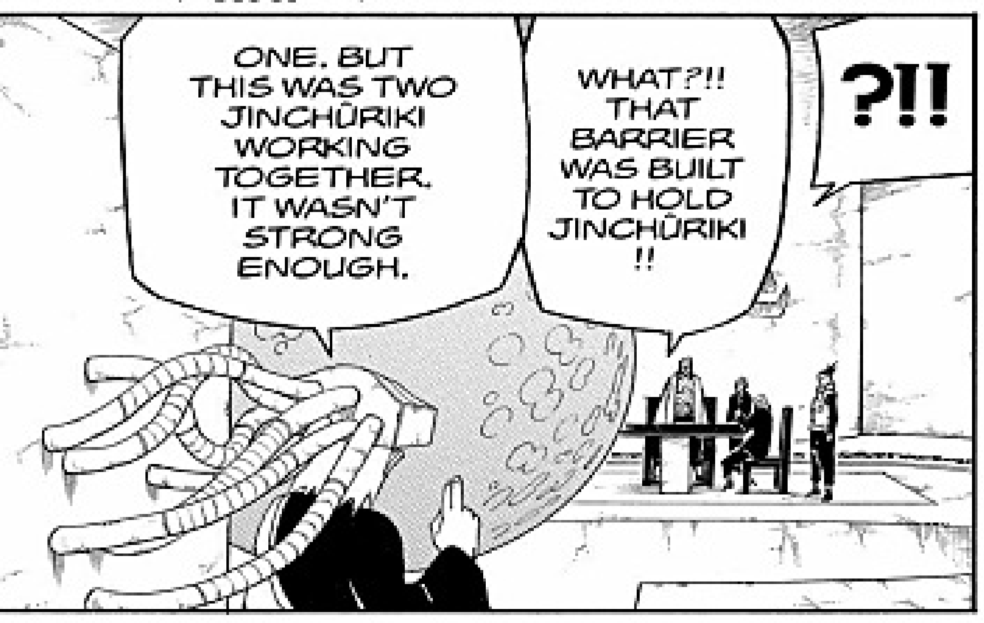

...UCHIHA MADARA!!


WE NEED A NEW STRATEGY RIGHT NOW!

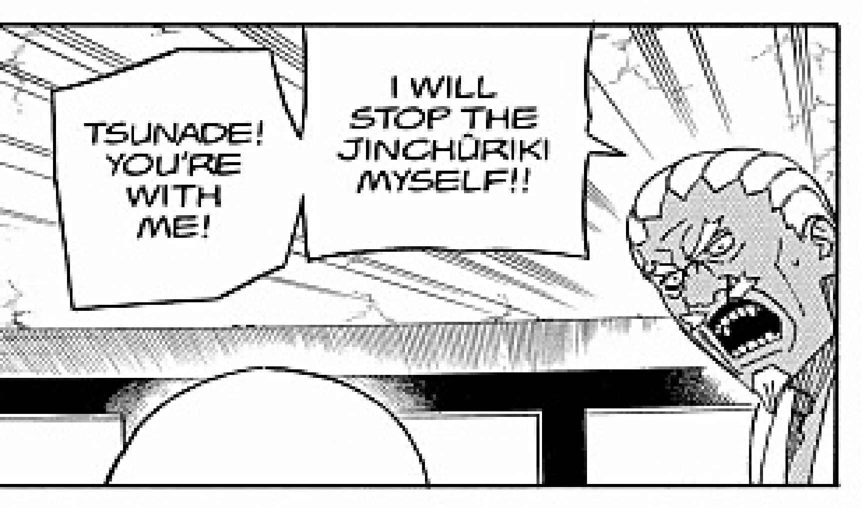

THE LEADER JOINS THE FIGHT?
WHY?


READ
THIS
WAY


INCOMING!! STATUS KILLER BEE AND UZUMAKI NARUTO!!
THEY'VE ESCAPED THE BARRIER!!


?!!
WHAT?!! THAT BARRIER WAS BUILT TO HOLD JINCHŪRIKI !!
ONE. BUT THIS WAS TWO JINCHŪRIKI WORKING TOGETHER. IT WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.


MASTER BEE IS WORKING WITH NARUTO.
GAAAH !!
SO NOW WHAT?


I WILL STOP THE JINCHŪRIKI MYSELF!!
TSUNADE! YOU'RE WITH ME!


WHO'S GOING TO MANAGE HQ?
...

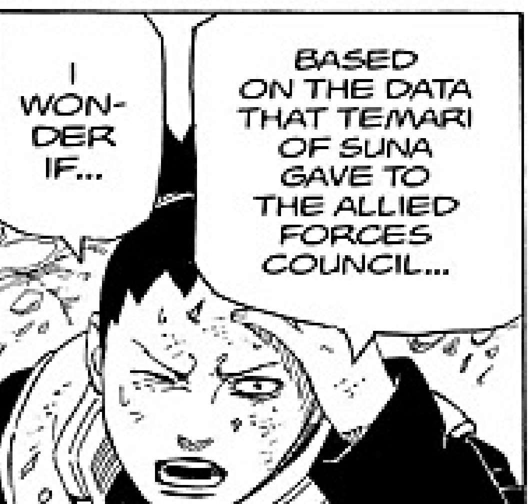

SHIKAKU OF KONOHA !!


UNDER-STOOD!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, SIR!


UGH.
WHAT?
EARTH STYLE! MOUNTAIN JUTSU!!!
G-G
KRKK
KRKK
RAAWR
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
ZOOM!
UGH.
WAAH!!


FWOOOOOOOSH
UGH.
G-G-G-G
-G-
KRIK KRIK
KRIK KRIK

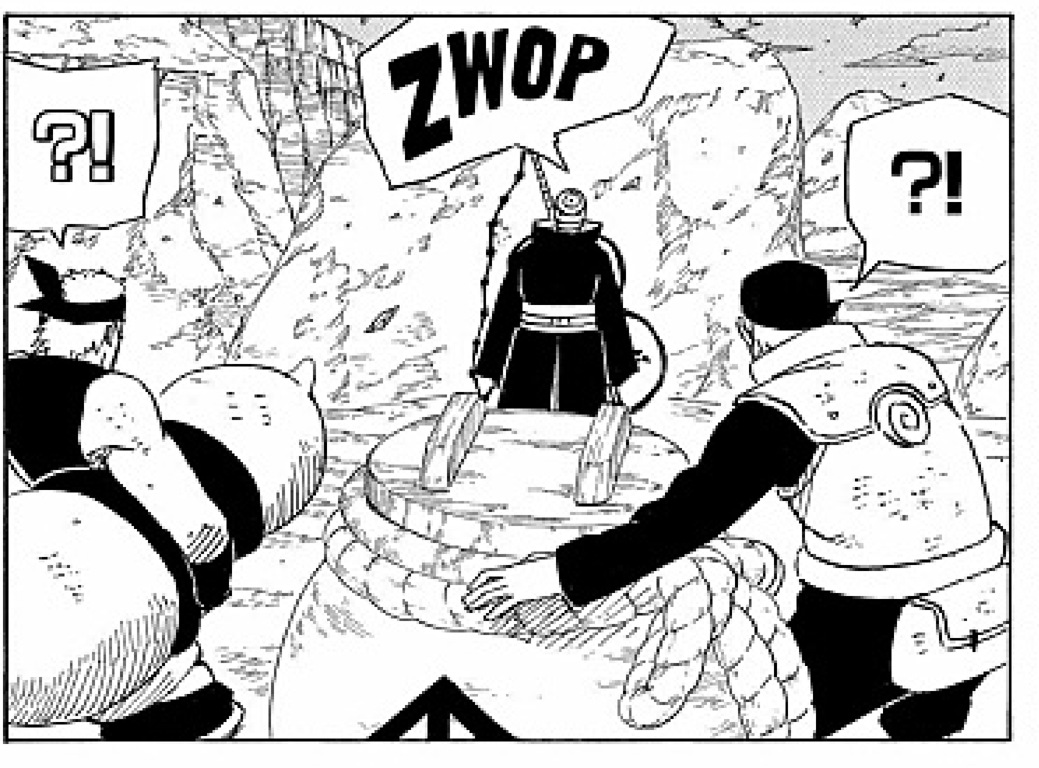
BOOOM



I WONDER IF...
BASED ON THE DATA THAT TEMARI OF SUNA GAVE TO THE ALLIED FORCES COUNCIL...



AIEE~~.
WHAT *IS* THAT THING?!
TOO MUCH POWER!



?!
ZWOP
?!



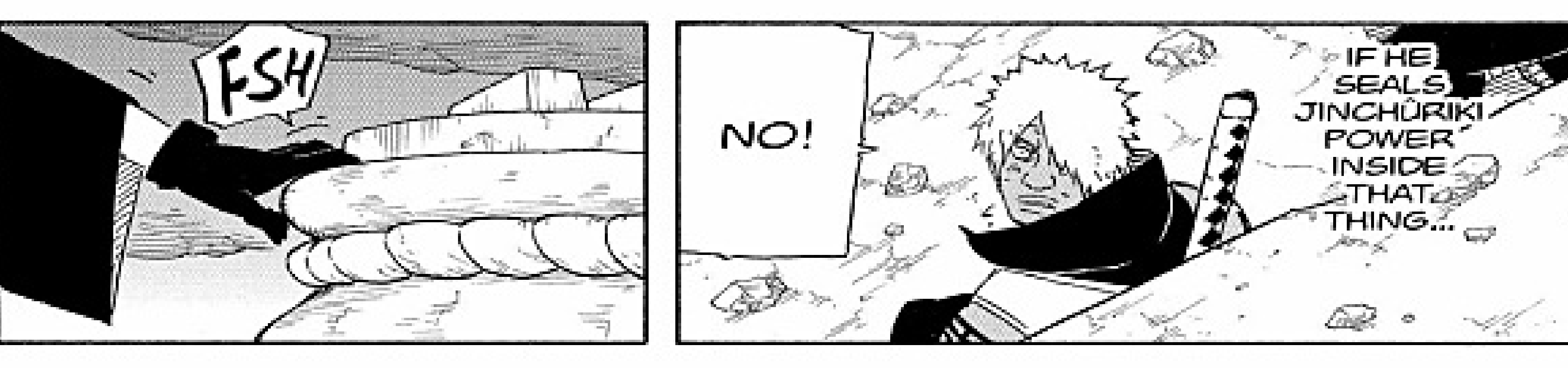
ZWOOOOOO

SWISH
WHOA!
?!
TAK
YOU!!
ARGH!
KICK
!!



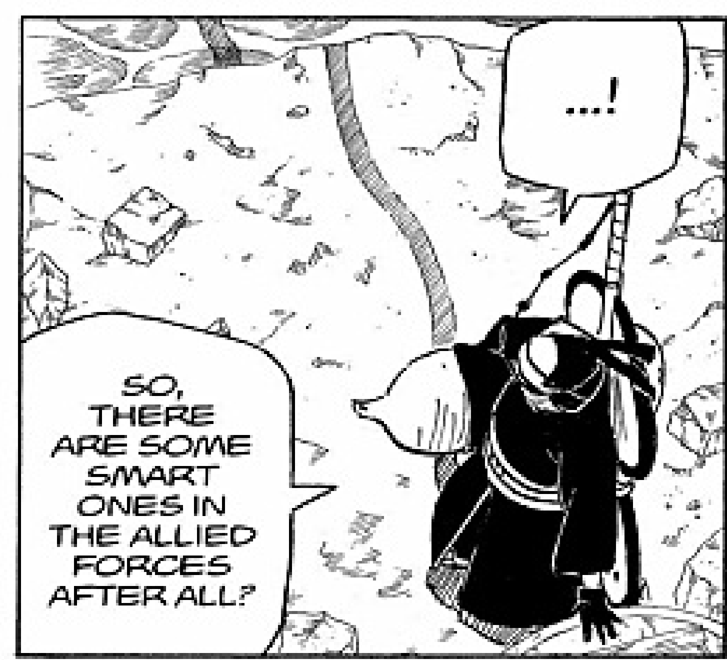


FWOOOOSH
GRRRR.
HUF
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY RESERVE ACE MOVE WAS SO EASILY...
HUF


IF HE SEALS JINCHŪRIKI POWER INSIDE THAT THING...
NO!
FSH

!
YOU DON'T GET THE NINJA TOOLS!
TMP
I DON'T WANT THEM. I JUST WANT WHAT'S INSIDE THEM.
ONCE I'M FINISHED, YOU CAN HAVE THEM BACK IF YOU WANT THEM SO BADLY.
SPLICH







WHAT A TRUE SHAME THAT YOU'RE MY ENEMY.

SO THAT MONSTER IS...

WHOOSH

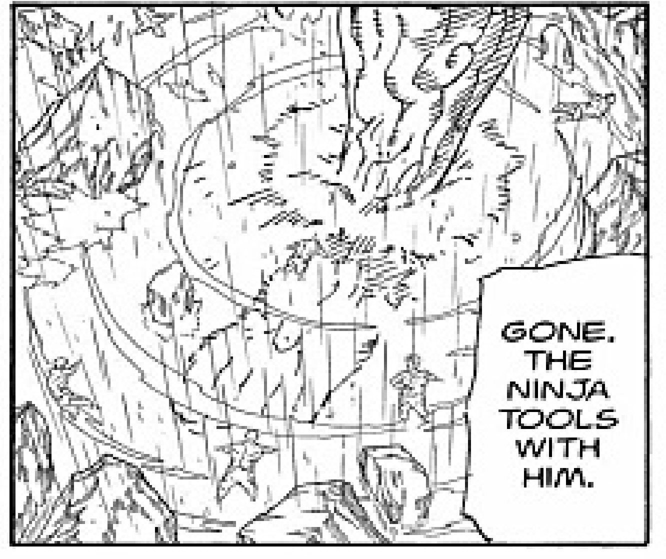
AW MAN!

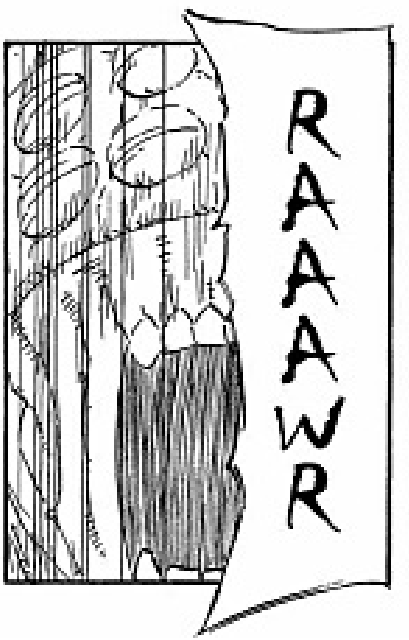
THOOM


SPLOOO
YOU ALL RIGHT, SHIKAMARU?!
SLOSH
THANKS, CHOJI!

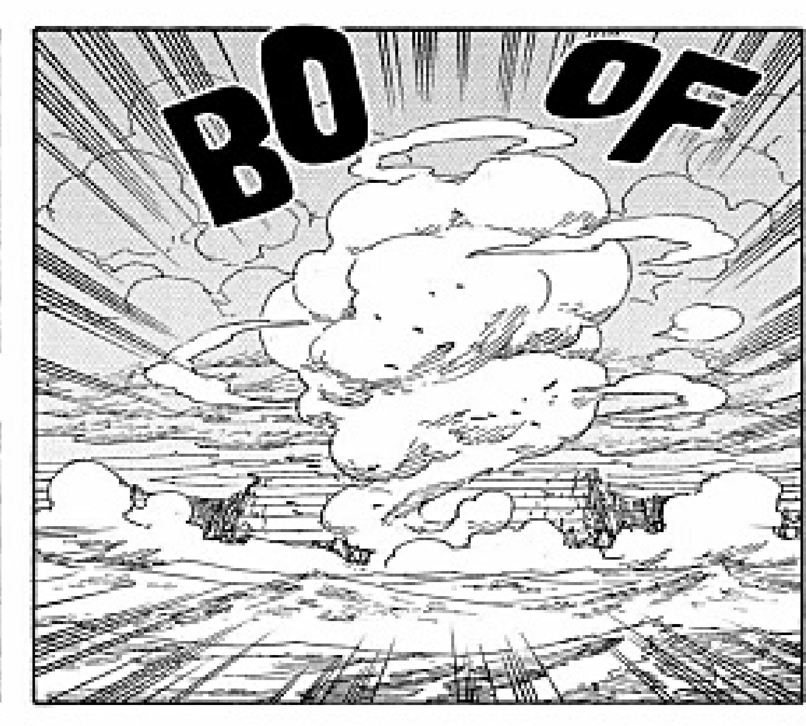

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU TWICE.
IT'S ALMOST NIGHTFALL!
THERE'LL BE A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE WHILE BOTH SIDES PREPARE FOR NIGHT ASSAULTS!
THE TIDE OF BATTLE HAS TURNED AGAINST US. WE NEED TO CONTACT HQ AND RESTRUCTURE OUR STRATEGY, DARUI!


I KNOW, SIR!
SWOOO
WHERE'S MADARA?!

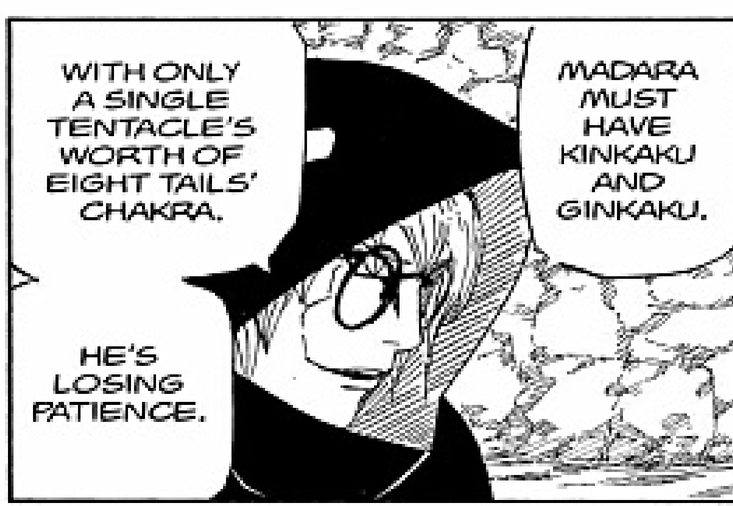

GONE. THE NINJA TOOLS WITH HIM.

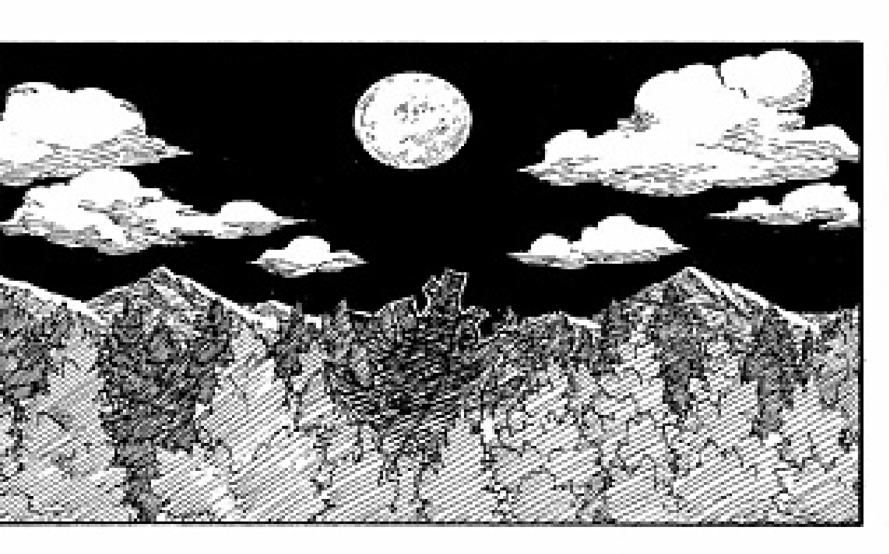

RAAAWR





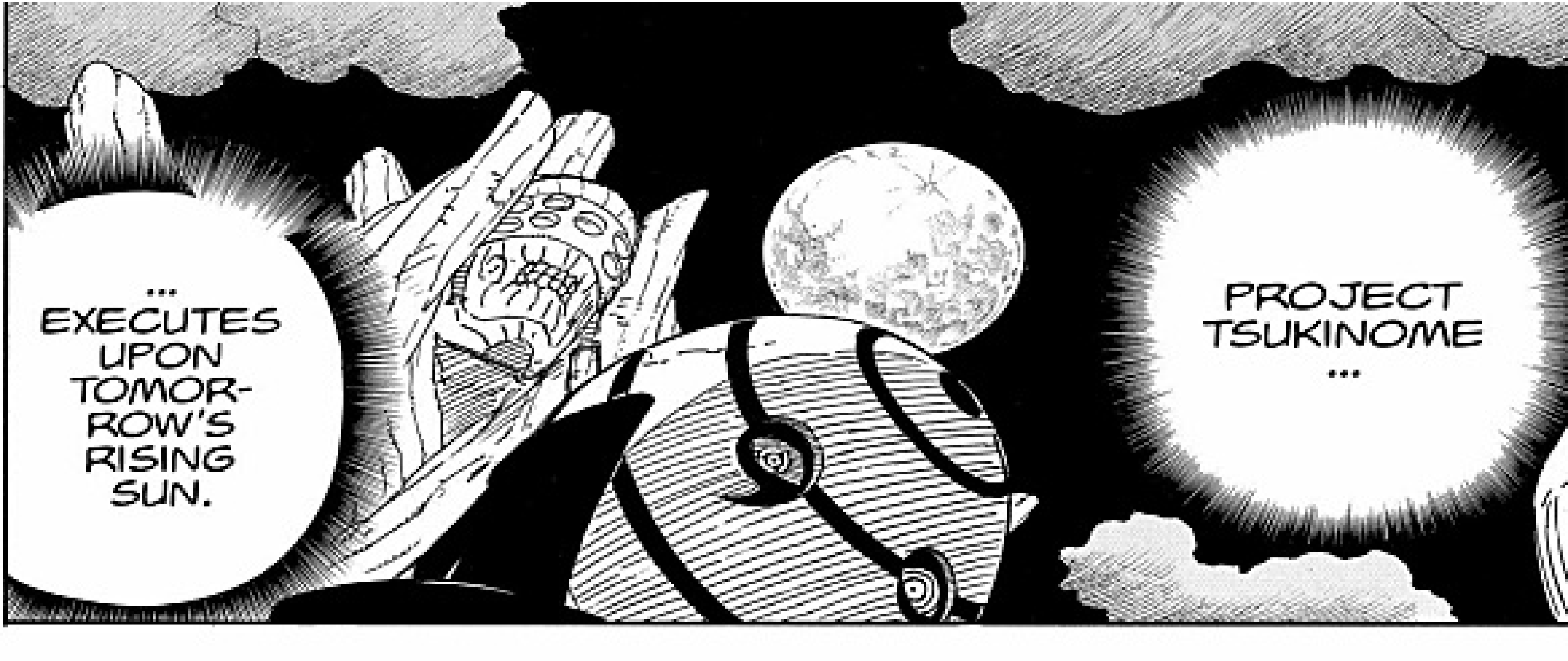






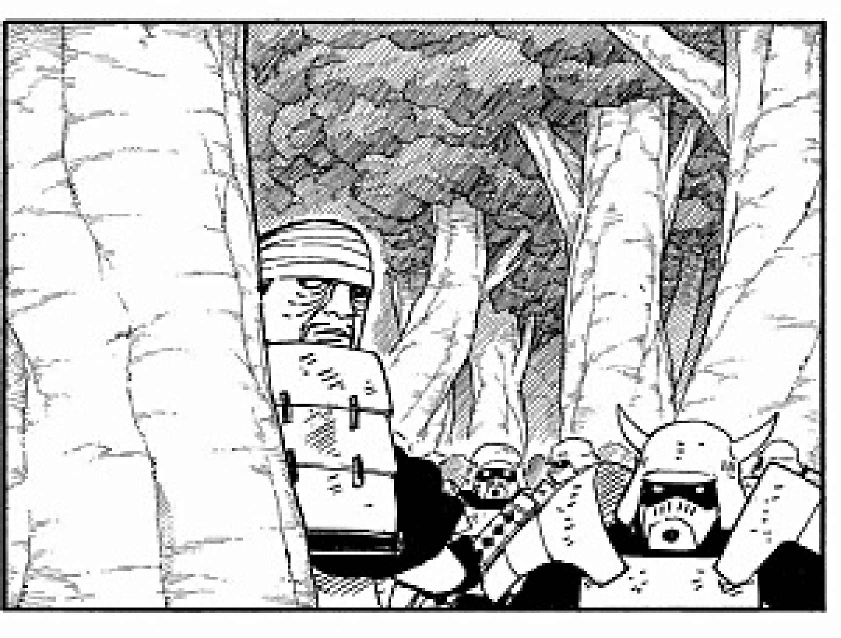
I WILL NOT LOSE THIS WAR.

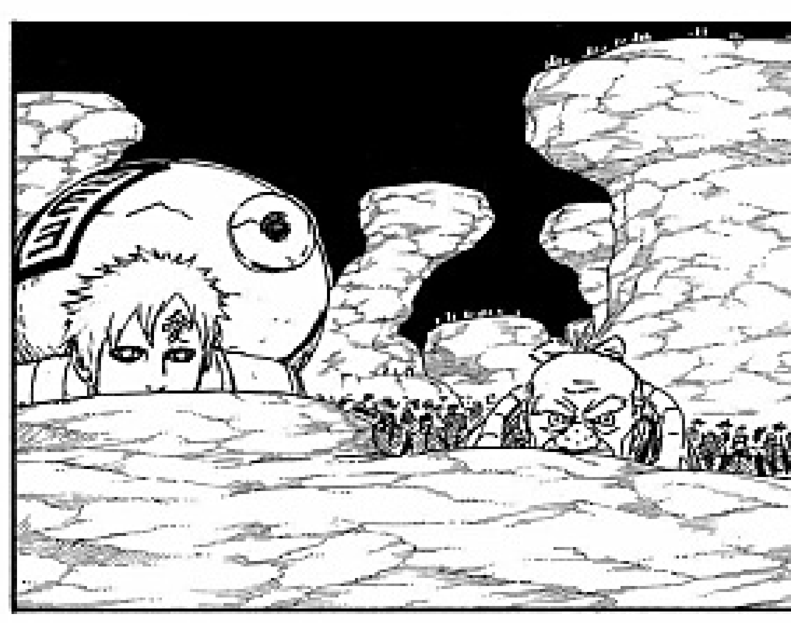
I'VE PREPARED FAR TOO LONG.


PROJECT TSUKINOME ...
... EXECUTES UPON TOMORROW'S RISING SUN.

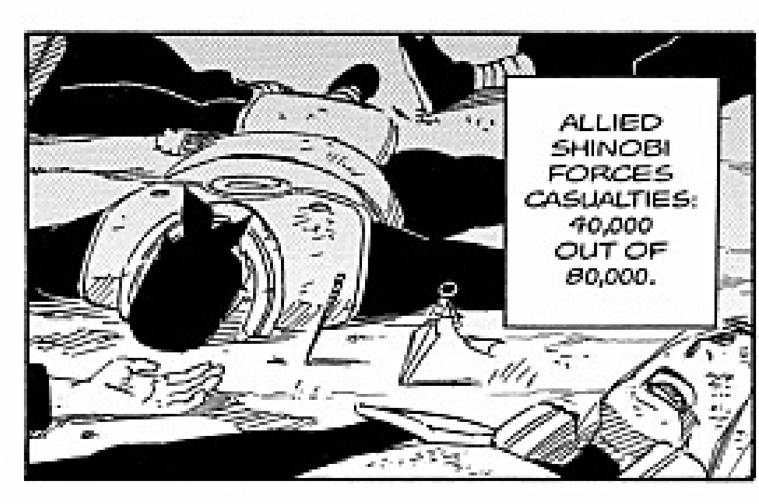


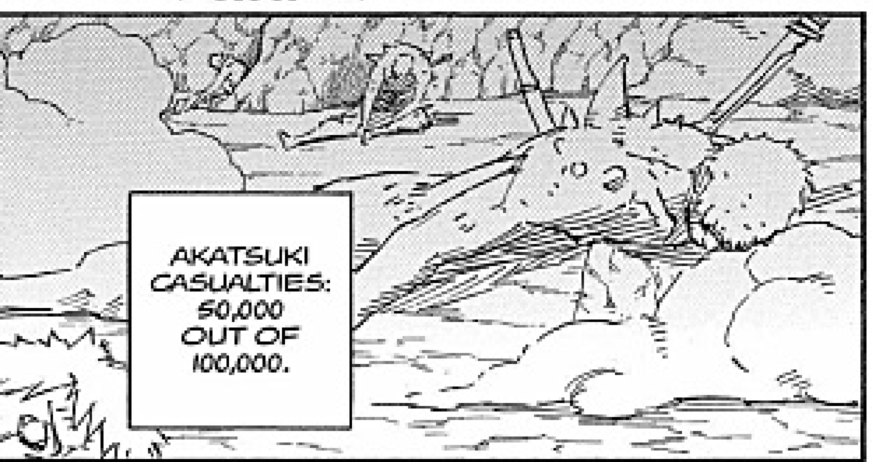


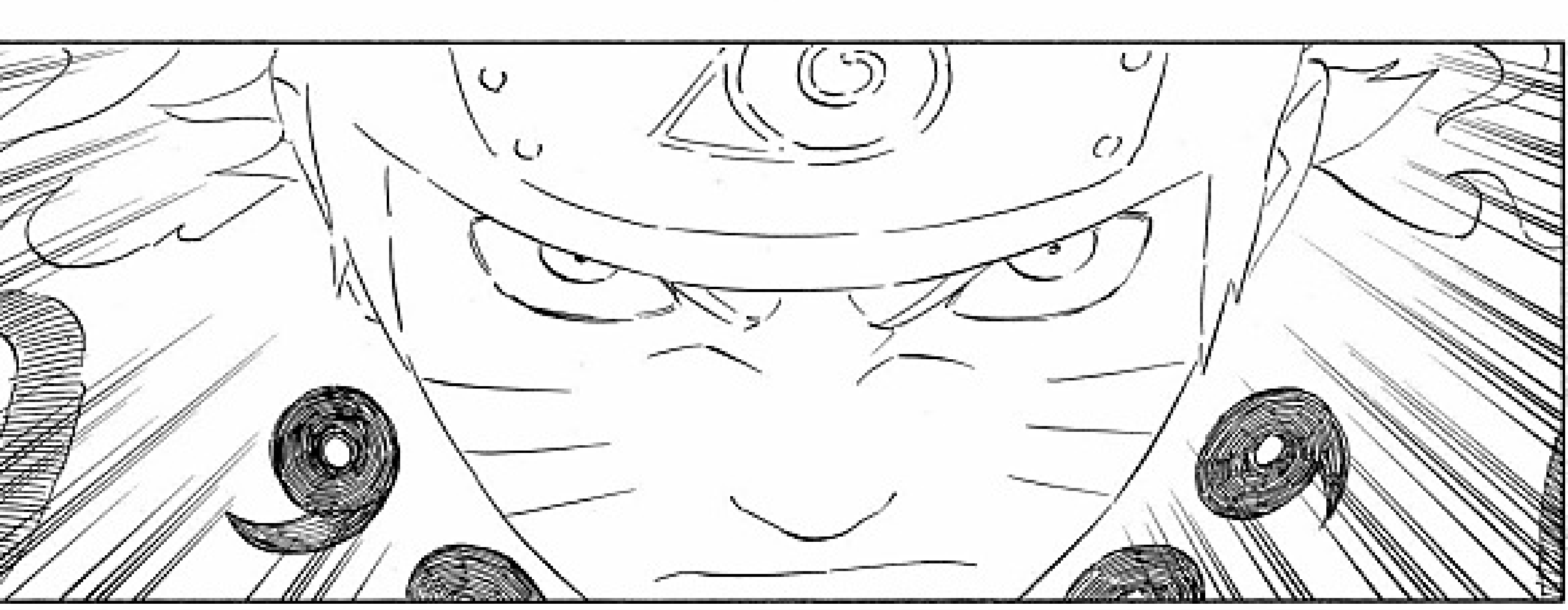












NIGHTFALL BRINGS THE UNEASY CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

AND THE FOURTH GREAT NINJA WAR MOVES INTO THE NEXT STAGE OF BATTLE!


NARUTO


Number 538: Cross-Examination
SPROING
NINE TAILS CHAKRA LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT,♪
IT'S WORTH THE POWER RISK TO KEEP IT BRIGHT.♪
YAH♪
ILLUMINATING WITH NINE TAILS' CHAKRA IS ALL WELL AND GOOD.
JUST DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.
YOU WASTE MY CHAKRA ON SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL?
?!

Number 538: Cross-Examination

I'VE BEEN INSIDE YOU, WATCHING YOU, FOR A LONG TIME.

BUT YOU'RE STILL NAÏVE, NARUTO.

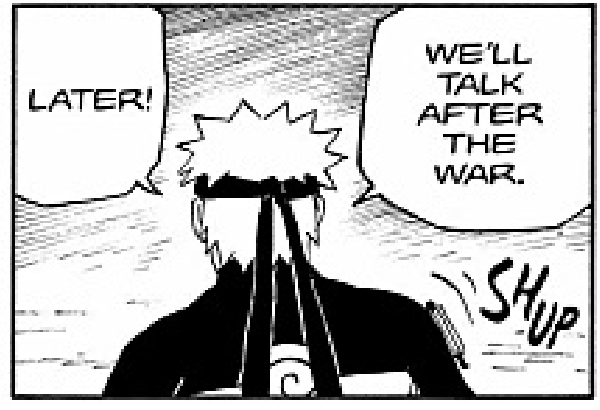




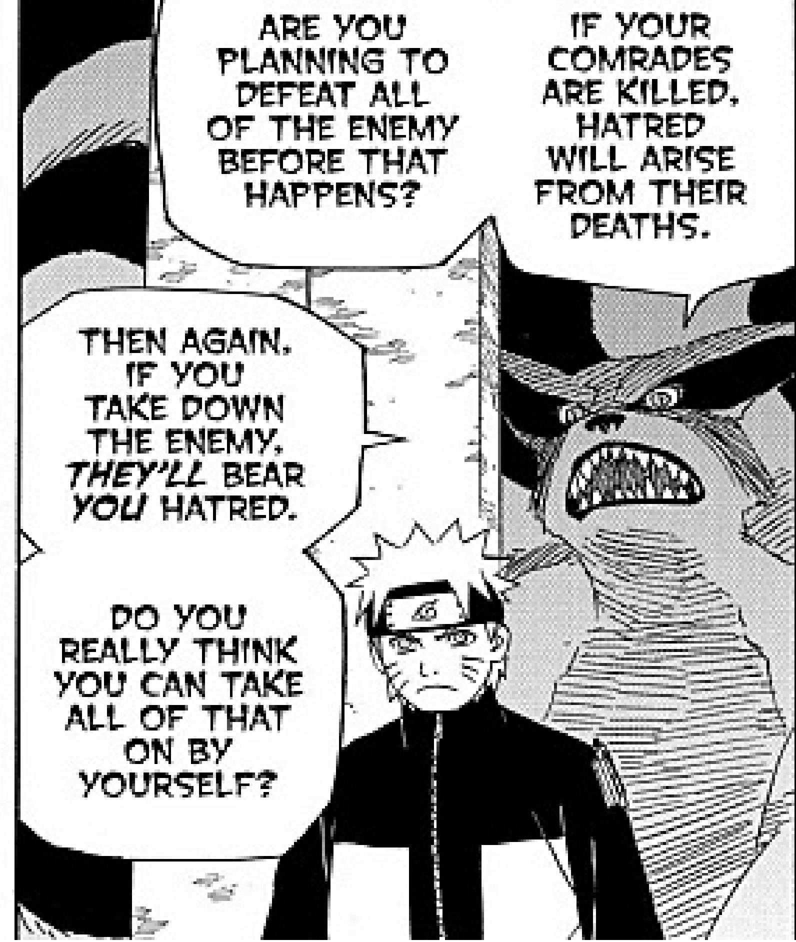

READ THIS WAY

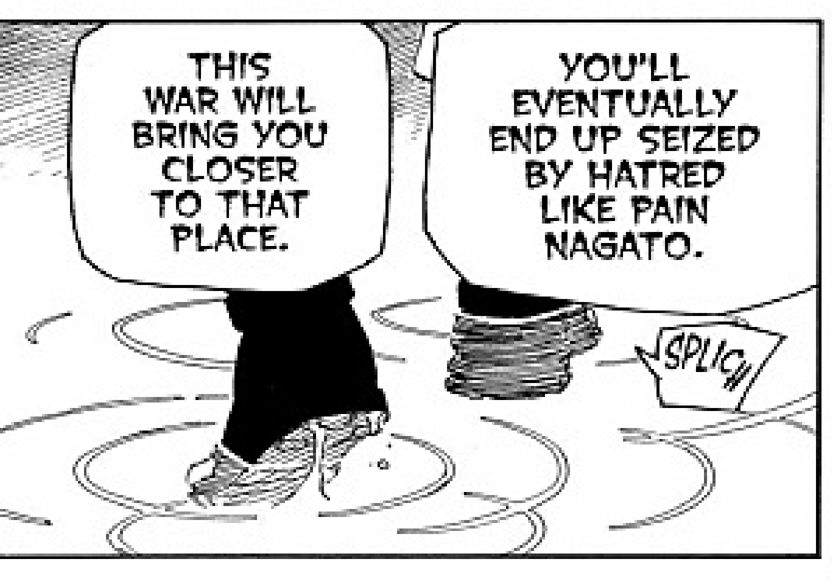

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN END THIS WAR ALL BY YOURSELF?
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE. UNLESS YOU WANT TO BORROW MORE OF MY POWER.
FOOSH


I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT ANYMORE.
...
HEH HEH HEH. YOU'VE GOTTEN A BIT SMARTER SINCE LAST TIME.


WE'LL TALK AFTER THE WAR.
LATER!
SHUP

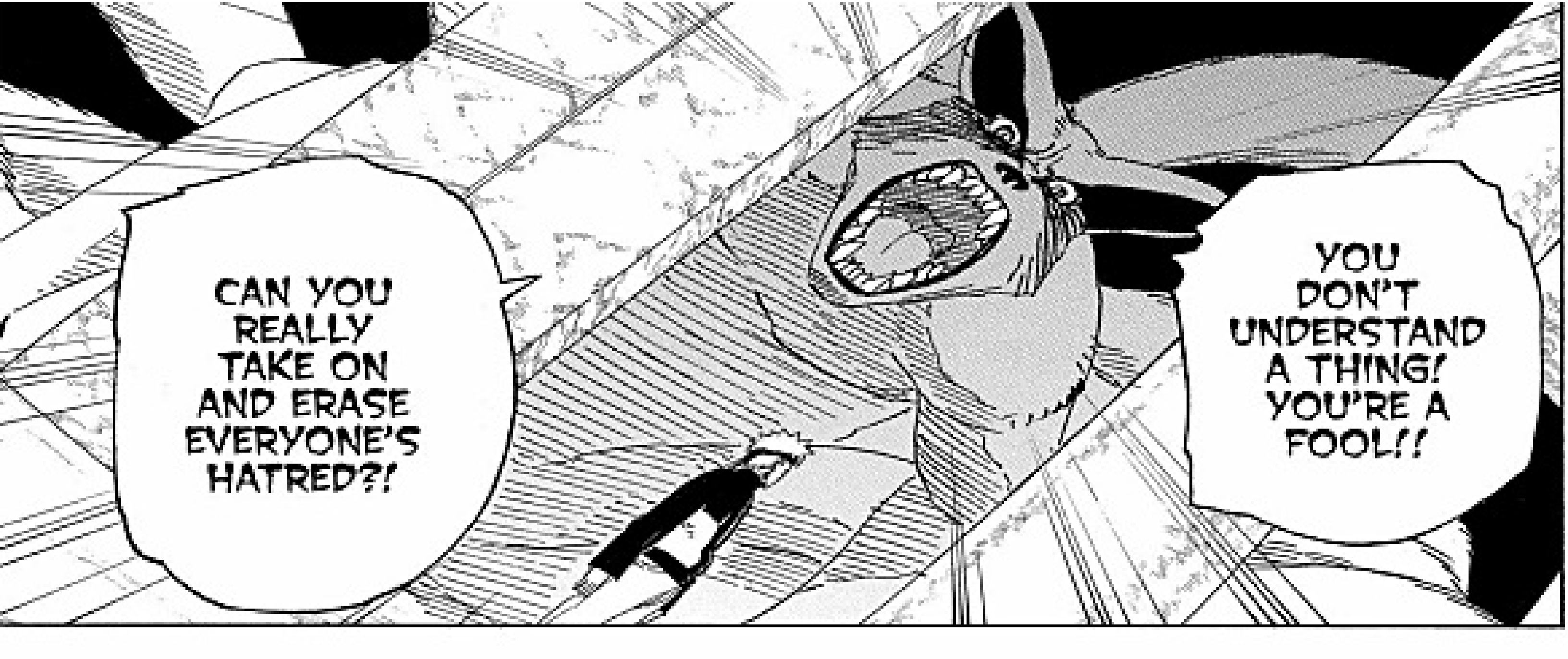

...

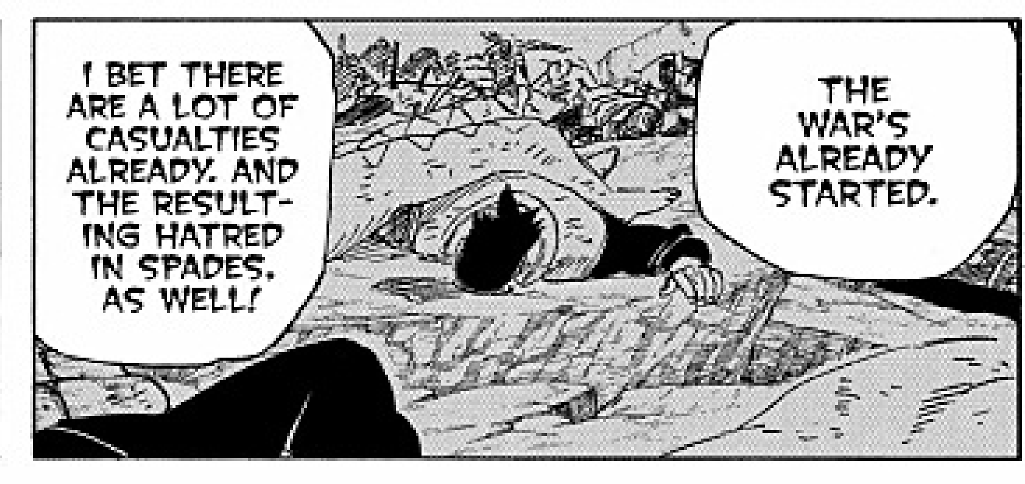

IF YOUR COMRADES ARE KILLED, HATRED WILL ARISE FROM THEIR DEATHS.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO DEFEAT ALL OF THE ENEMY BEFORE THAT HAPPENS?
THEN AGAIN, IF YOU TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY, *THEY'LL* BEAR *YOU* HATRED.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TAKE ALL OF THAT ON BY YOURSELF?

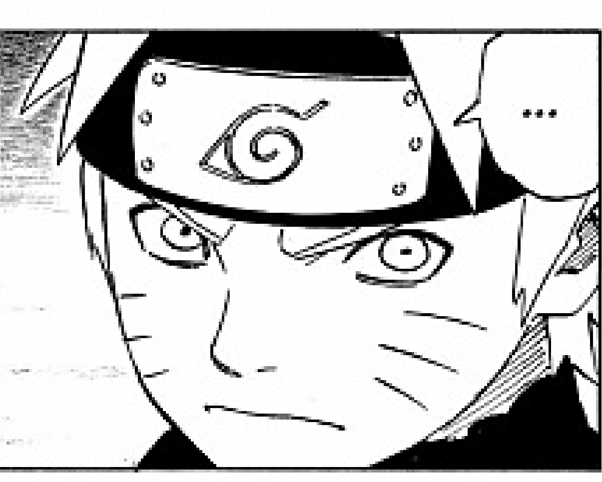

YOU'LL EVENTUALLY END UP SEIZED BY HATRED LIKE PAIN NAGATO.
THIS WAR WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO THAT PLACE.
SPLICH



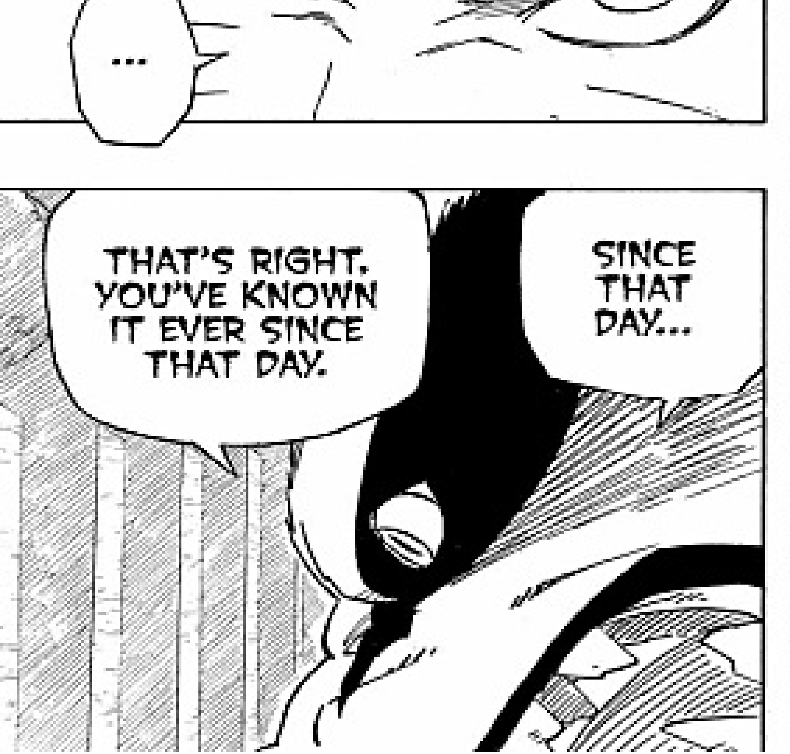

DON'T ACT LIKE I'M STUPID!!!
...
GRPPP
...
KRIK


YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING! YOU'RE A FOOL!!
CAN YOU REALLY TAKE ON AND ERASE EVERYONE'S HATRED?!


THE WAR'S ALREADY STARTED.
I BET THERE ARE A LOT OF CASUALTIES ALREADY. AND THE RESULTING HATRED IN SPADES, AS WELL!


...


YOUR FORMER TEAMMATE, SASUKE, HAS BEEN GRIPPED BY HATRED FOR A LONG TIME.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM?


...
SINCE THAT DAY...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'VE KNOWN IT EVER SINCE THAT DAY.


忍者アカデミー
忍
(NINJA ACADEMY)
DO IT!
YOU GO!
WHO'M I FIGHTING?
HMM. WHICH ONE OF THESE GUYS?!


UM. MASTER?
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO FIGHT MY FRIEND.
THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A FIGHT.
THIS IS TRADITIONAL SHINOBI HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!
EVEN OUR HOKAGE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SUCH DRILLS.
SHUP
UM. MASTER, YOU CAN JUST PUT DOWN THAT I WENT OUT-OF-BOUNDS.
YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PAIR.
WUMP
SIGH.
HE REALLY HAS NO MOTIVATION!
HE'LL NEVER MAKE CHŪNIN.
NO. THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY TRUE. PEOPLE CAN CHANGE OVER A LIFETIME.
WHOA, WHAT'S WITH YOU? SO TOUCHY!
SHIKAMARU, YOU'RE THE LAZIEST KID I'VE EVER MET!
AND CHOJI, YOU'RE A COWARD!
INO-CHAN, YOU KNOW THOSE GUYS?
WELL, OUR PARENTS ARE FRIENDS.
FINE. SHIKAMARU, CHOJI, GIVE THE UNISON SIGN...
AND WE'LL MOVE ON.

SORRY, SHIKA-MARU.
Z'OKAY. I KNOW YOU STINK AT THIS.
AND I'D RATHER NOT BE BOTHERED ANYWAY.
ER... NEXT UP, UZUMAKI NARUTO!
UCHIHA SASUKE! BOTH OF YOU, STEP FORWARD!
WHEE--- SASUKE-KUN!
SHUP
SASUKE-KUN!!








SASUKE-KUN!!
G-GOOD LUCK, NARU...
ALL RIGHT! I AIN'T GONNA LOSE!!!
WE SHALL NOW COMMENCE UZUMAKI NARUTO VS. UCHIHA SASUKE.
WOOSH
C'MON, IDIOT!!
WHATEVER, LOSER.
I DON'T CARE. I JUST WANT TO BEAT HIM UP!
TIME FOR A NEW MR. POPULAR AROUND HERE, YA KNOW!!
RRKK
HOLD IT, BOTH OF YOU!!
NARUTO, HEY! YOU NEED TO MAKE THE SPAR SIGN!
THAT'S ETIQUETTE!


HAND-TO-HAND IS A VERY OLD TRADITIONAL DRILL.
YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S STUFFY TO BE FORMAL BUT HERE AT THE ACADEMY WE HAVE RESPECT FOR TRADITION!
FIRST, YOU ALWAYS FACE AND MAKE THIS ONE-HANDED SIGN TOWARD YOUR OPPONENT BEFORE STARTING TO SPAR.
FSH
THIS GESTURE SYMBOLIZES HALF OF THE TWO-HANDED SIGNS NEEDED TO ACTIVATE JUTSU AND INDICATES ONE'S WILL TO FIGHT! THIS IS THE SPAR SIGN.
WHEN YOU FINISH SPARRING AND THE BOUT IS CONCLUDED...
YOU EACH EXTEND FORTH THE UNISON SIGN, OVERLAP THEM, AND LOCK YOUR FINGERS AROUND EACH OTHER'S.
THE UNISON SIGN INDICATES THAT YOU RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER AS COMRADES.
AND THAT COVERS ALL OF THE ETIQUETTE OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!
ARE YOU LISTENING, NARUTO?!!
IT'S THE SECOND TIME I'M EXPLAINING THIS TO YOU!!
YEAH, YEAH.
YOU SAY THE WORD "YES" TO ME, YOU DUNCE!!

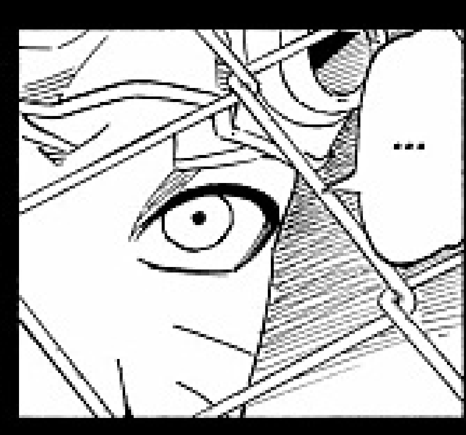


I GET IT, OKAY...?
HUMPH.
NARUTO
TA
K
BEGIN !!
YOU GO, SASUKE-KUN!
!!

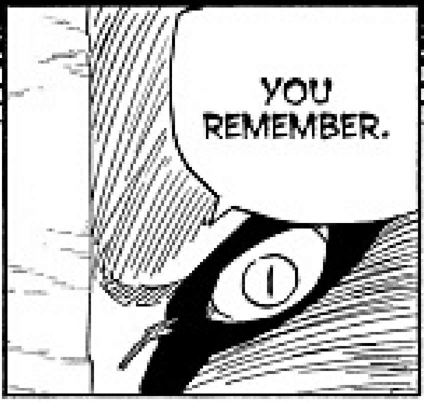

WHOA, SO COOL!!
Whee~ woo
YOU'RE AMAZ-ING, SASUKE-KUN!!!
NARUTO
THE WAY HE LOOKS AT ME!
HE'S SO MUCH MORE INTENSE THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
WAIT.
HE'S NOT LOOK-ING AT ME.


READ THIS WAY
SASUKE WINS!
NOW, BOTH OF YOU MAKE THE UNISON SIGN SO WE CAN MOVE ON.
FSH
...
YOU WEREN'T EVEN LOOKING AT ME!
WE HAVEN'T REALLY FOUGHT YET!
YOU'RE A TURD!
UM, THAT'S NOT REALLY A SWEAR WORD, YOU KNOW.
ALWAYS WITH THE POOP TALK.
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE TOO TOUCHY!
CLOD
OWW!!
I TOLD YOU, THIS HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT IS A SACRED TRADITION!
MAKE THE UNISON SIGN!
FSH
FSH


WANNA GO AT IT MORE, LOSER?!
HUMPH!!
GRAB
WHAT'S WITH HIM?!
NARUTO'S *SO* STUPID!
BLECH!
ZOOM
HEY!! ENOUGH! QUIT IT, BOTH OF YOU!!
OOF
HMPH
TOK
TAK


...



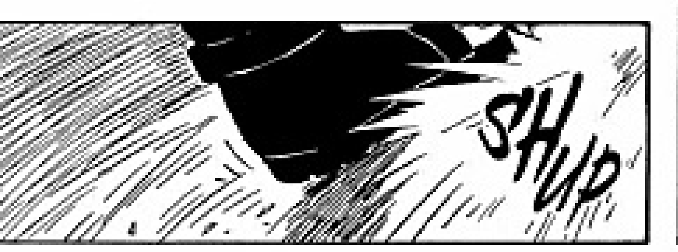

YOU REMEMBER.


SO WHERE IS SASUKE NOW?
WERE YOU ABLE TO ERASE HIS HATRED?
NO, IN FACT, QUITE THE OPPOSITE.


HIS HATRED HAS GROWN STRONGER!


NO ONE CAN ERASE THAT MUCH HATRED.
YOU CAN'T ERASE IT AND YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT!
...
FINISHED?
EXCUSE ME?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SCARE ME INTO DOING NOTHING?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT, ISN'T IT, NINE TAILS...?
SPLISH
SPLISH
YA KNOW...
FSH
?!
SSH


WHO ARE YOU TO BE SO CONFIDENT?! YOU CAN'T HELP A SINGLE TEAMMATE. SASUKE IS LOST TO YOU.


SHUP

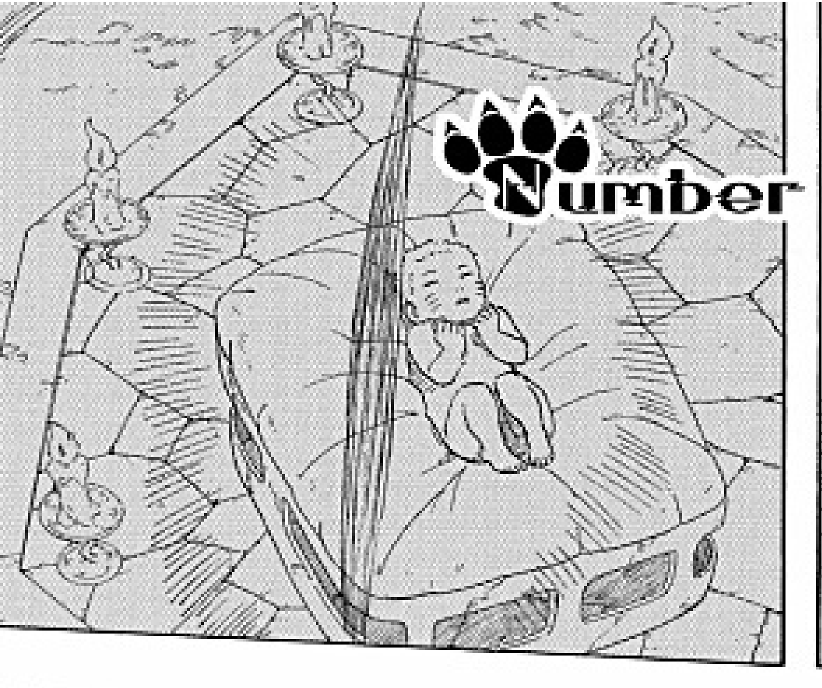

BOOM
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GET WHAT'S UP!!!

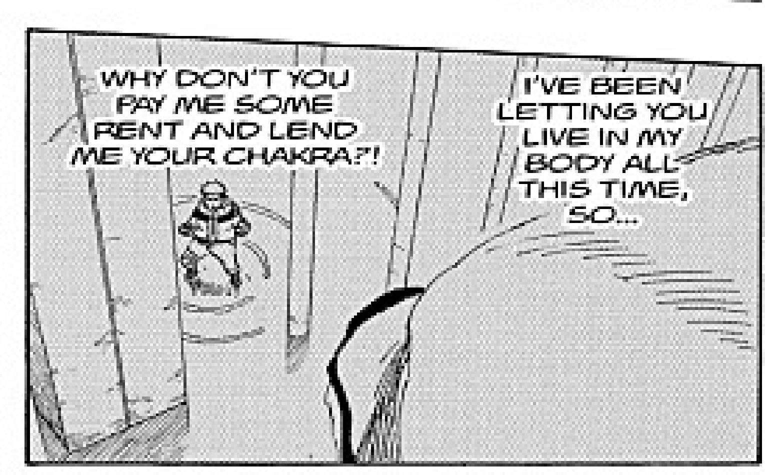
I'VE NEVER GIVEN UP. ONCE YOU GIVE UP IT'S OVER!
I *WILL* SAVE SASUKE.
AND I *WILL STOP THIS WAR!!*
SHOOM



Number 539: Blood Night...!!







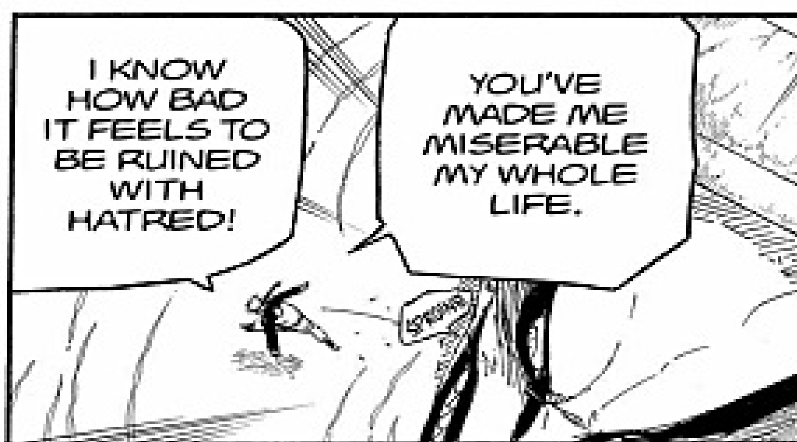


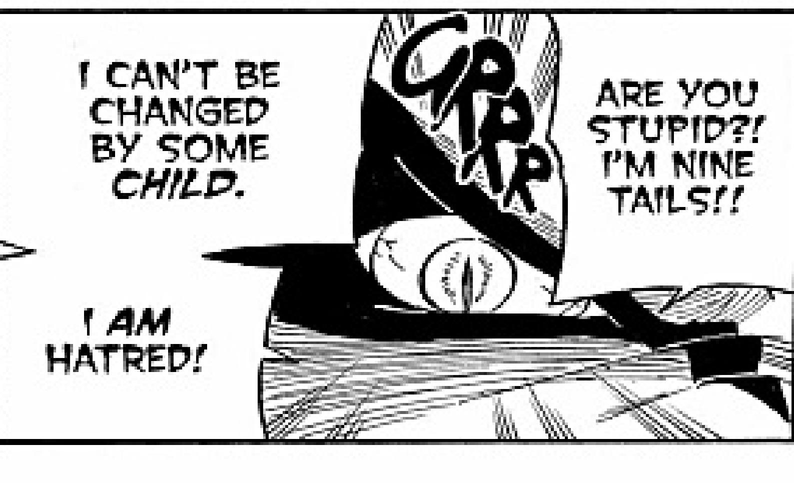






I'M COMING AFTER ALL THAT HATE INSIDE *YOU* TOO SOMEDAY!!!
?!!
ZING







...

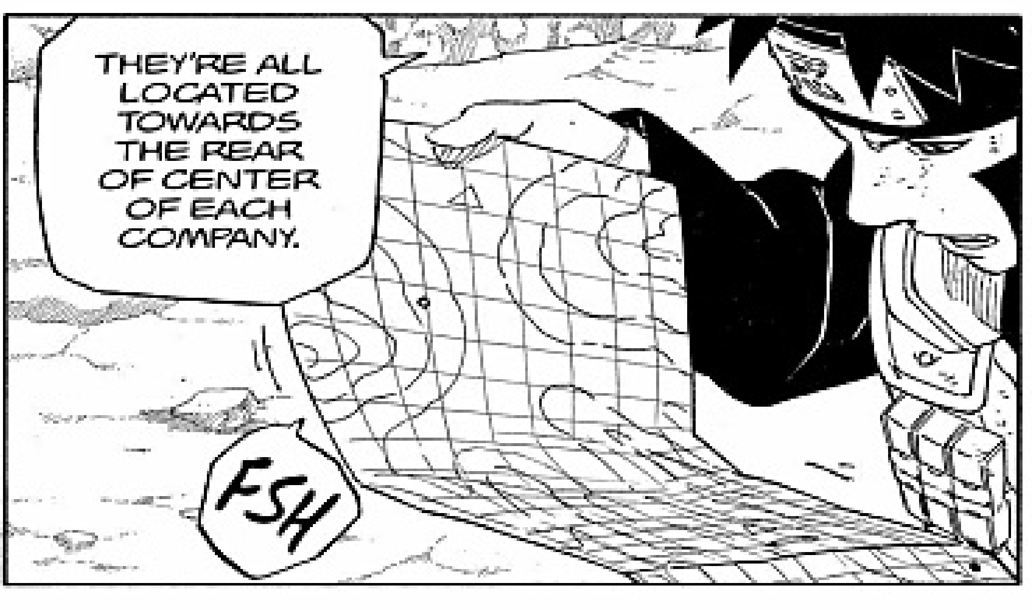
LATER.

SHOO

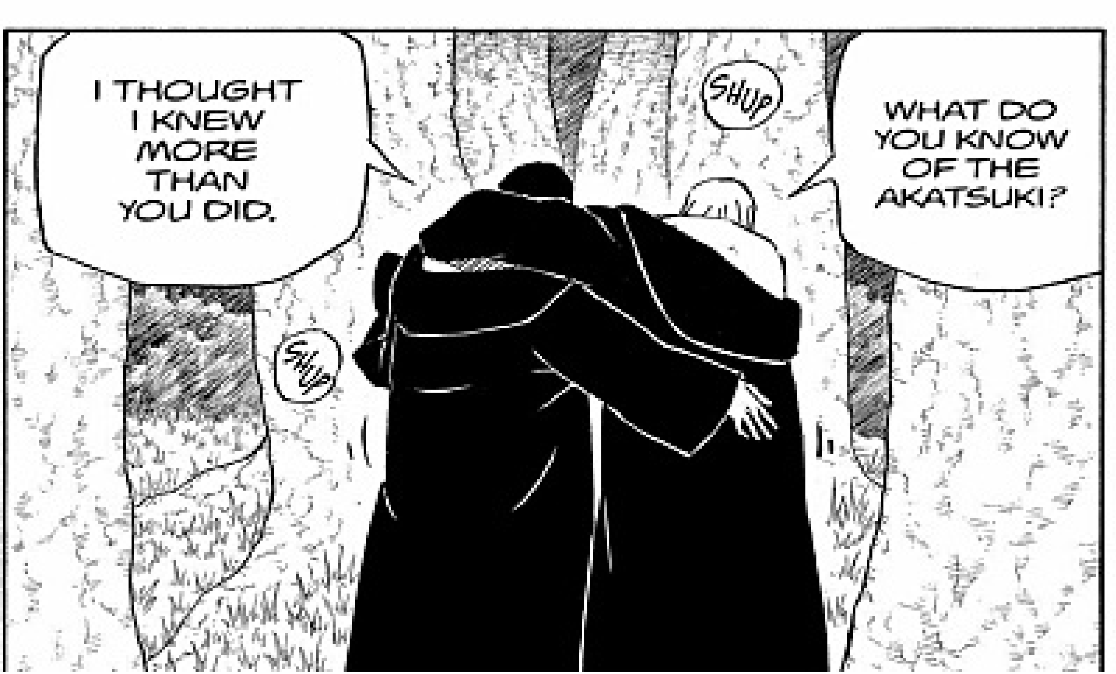


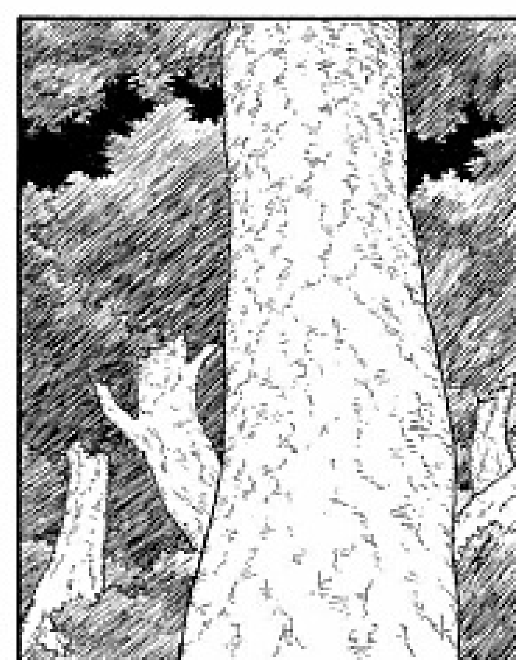


HEY, NEJI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. I'M FINE.
I CAN USE MY NOSE TO SNIFF OUT ENEMIES. WE'RE NOT RELYING ON YOUR EYES ALONE. TAKE IT EASY.
TOK
!
UGH.
THUMP



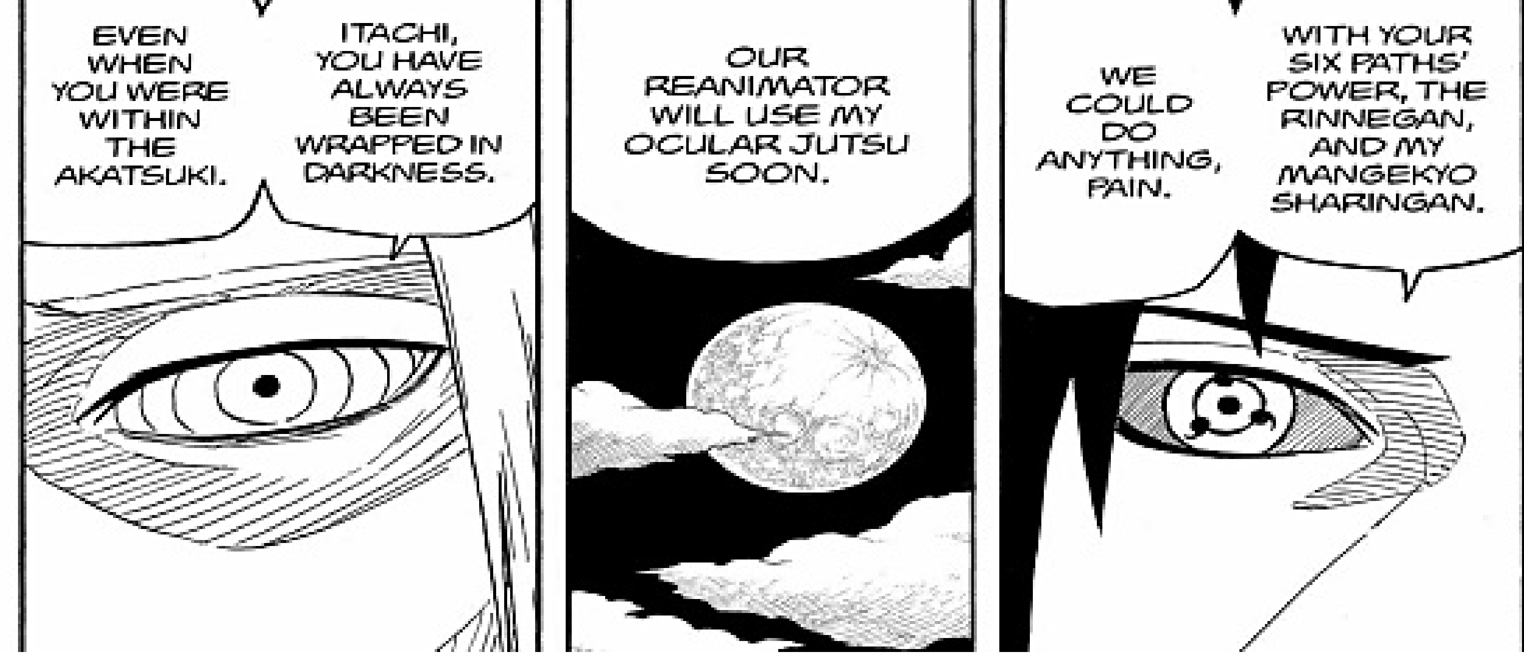






WE WERE BOTH BEING USED.

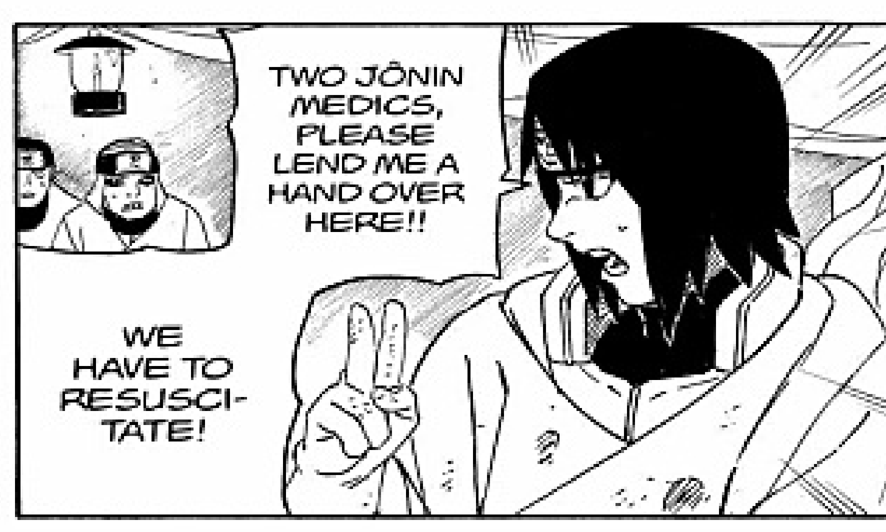
THEY ONLY KEPT US AROUND FOR OUR OCULAR POWERS.

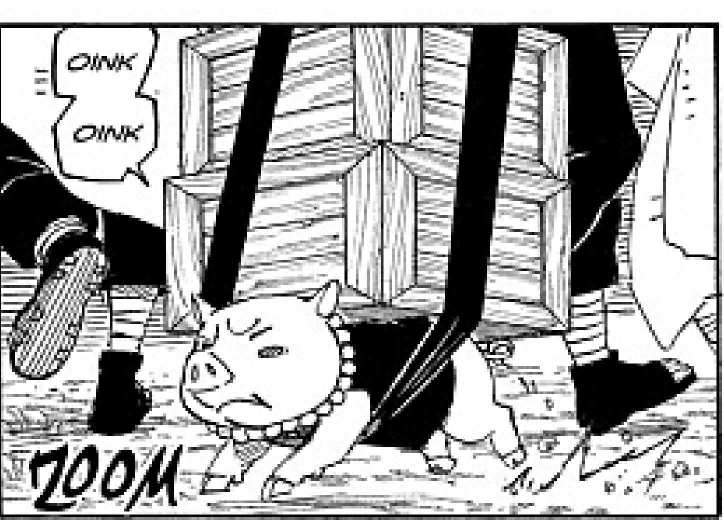


HEY! HURRY UP! OVER HERE TOO!

OWW~ IT HURTS!

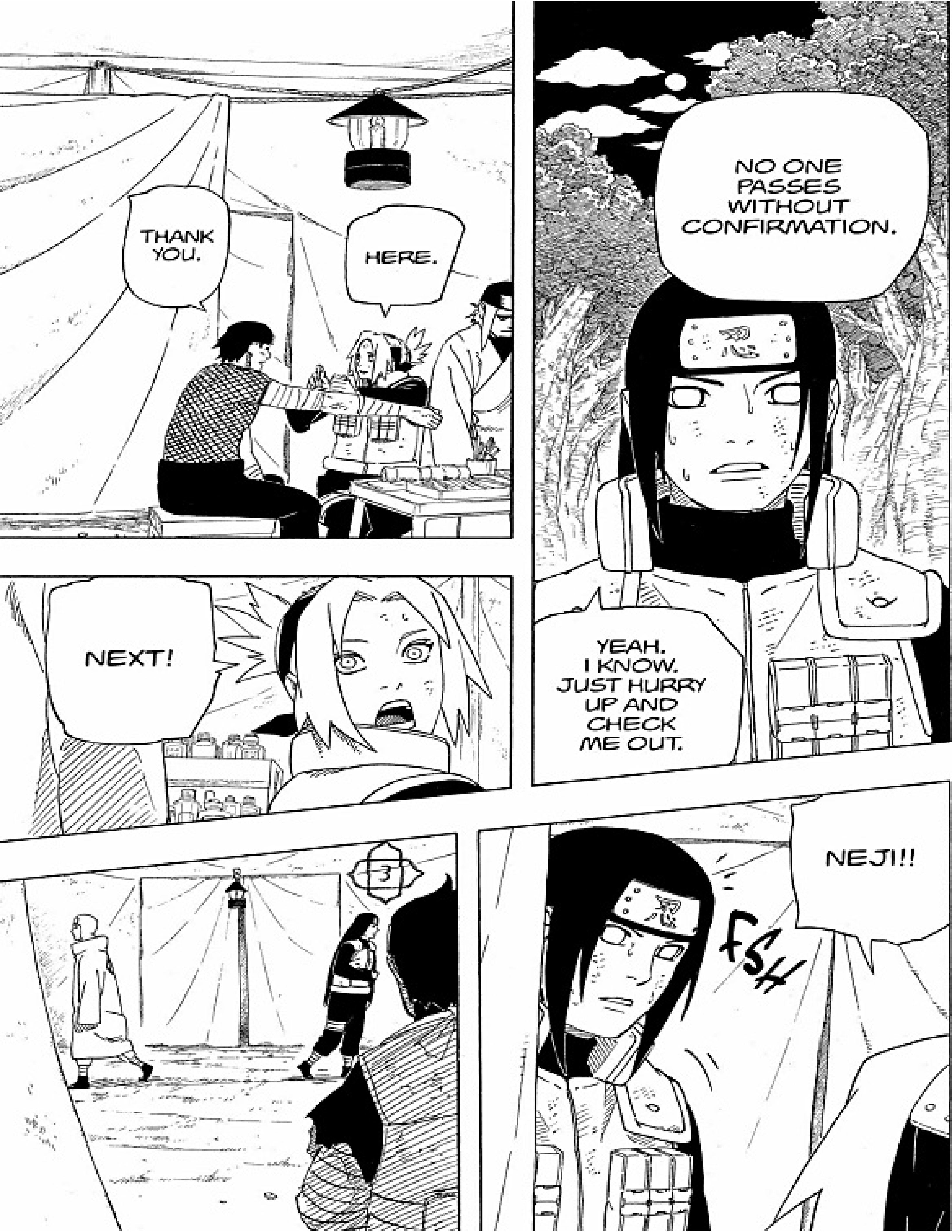
200 ML OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SALINE!

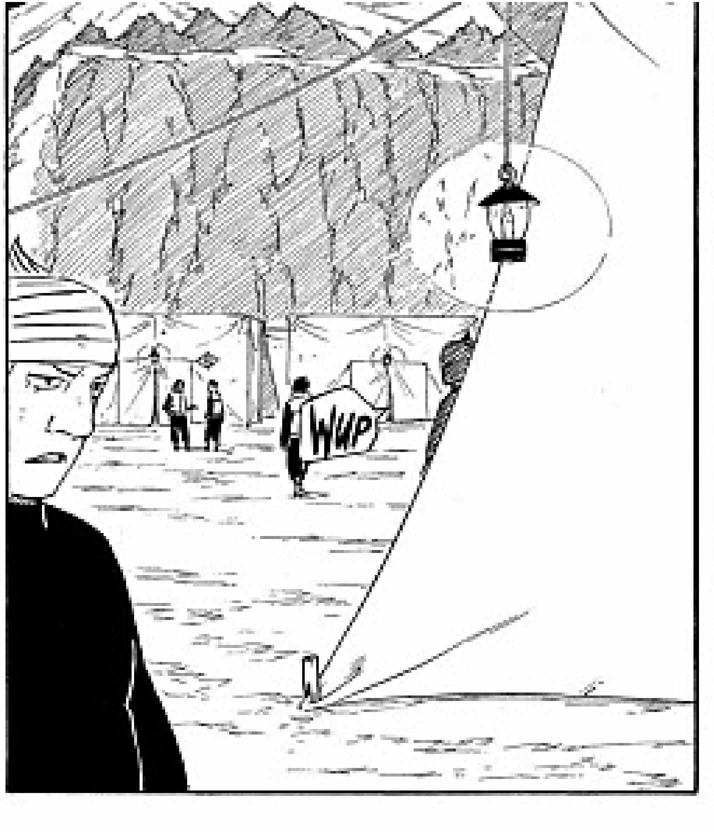


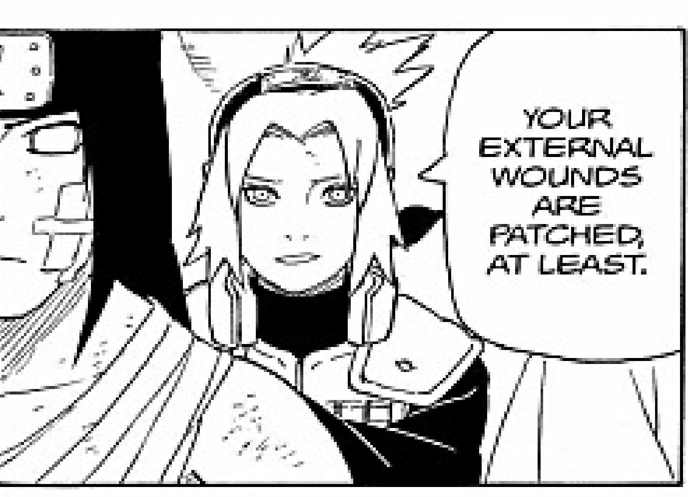







NO ONE PASSES WITHOUT CONFIRMATION.
YEAH. I KNOW. JUST HURRY UP AND CHECK ME OUT.
HERE.
THANK YOU.
NEXT!
NEJI!!
FSH
3


WUP

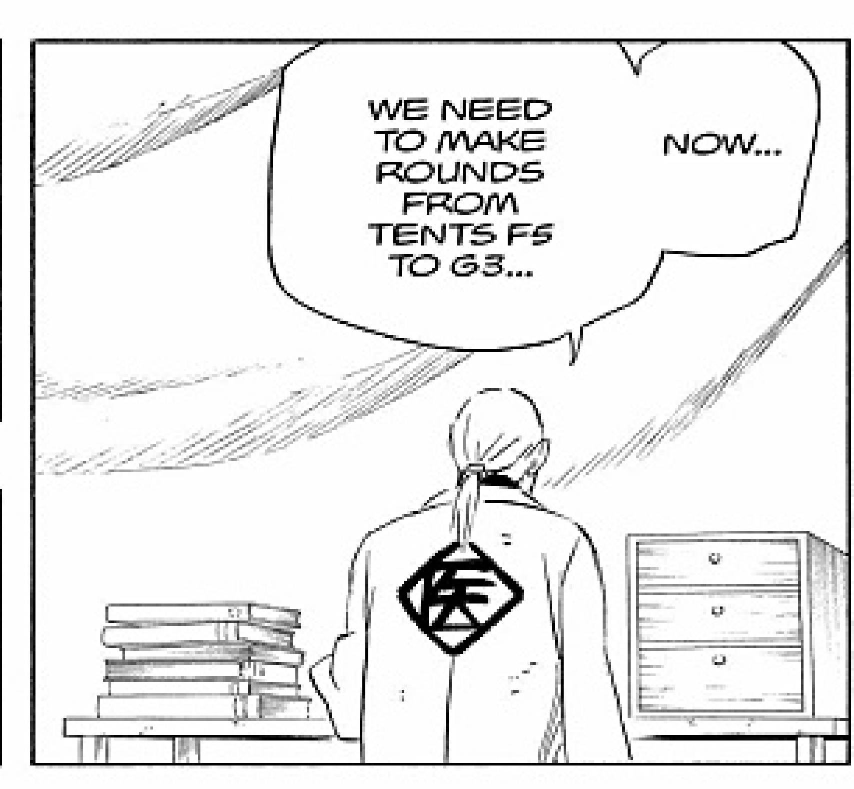

YOUR EXTERNAL WOUNDS ARE PATCHED, AT LEAST.




FOOSH

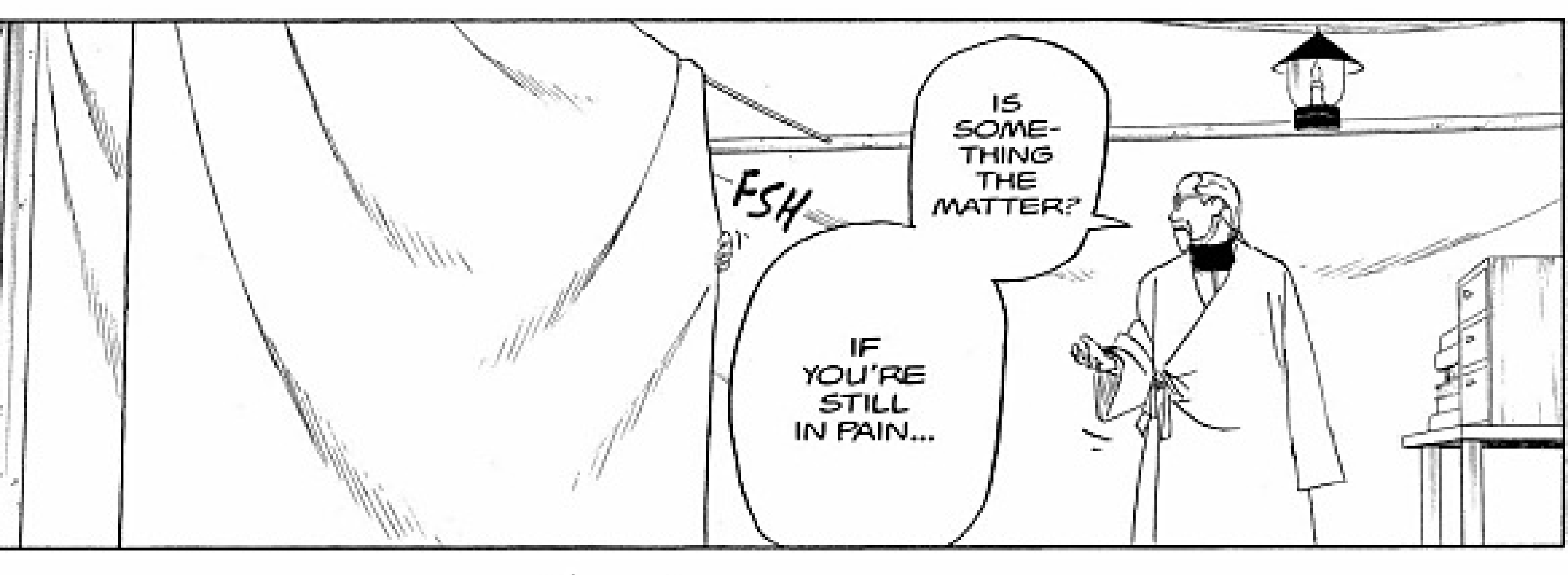

THANKS.
YOU NEED TO SLEEP.

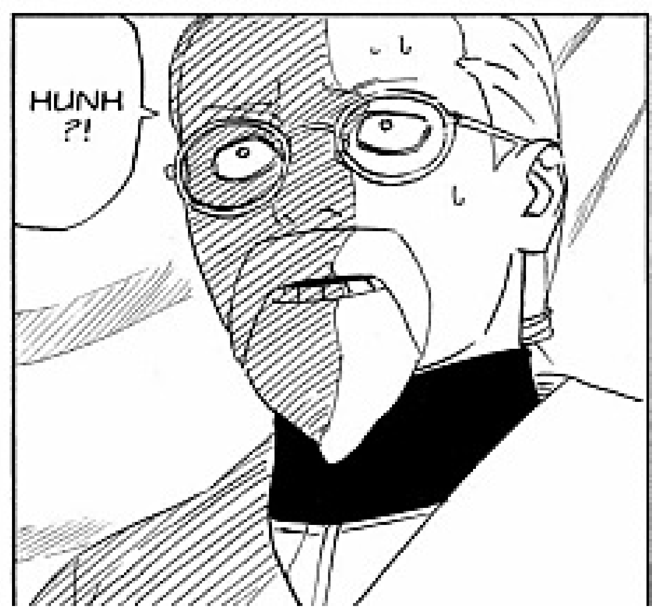

READ THIS WAY


NOW...
WE NEED TO MAKE ROUNDS FROM TENTS F5 TO G3...

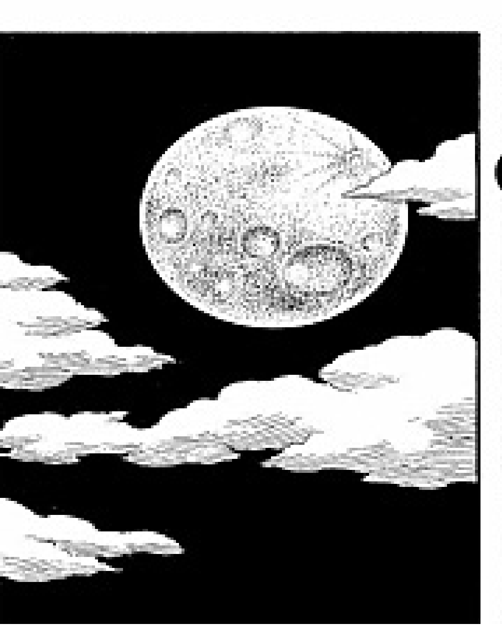

SHUP


?!


IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
IF YOU'RE STILL IN PAIN...
FSH

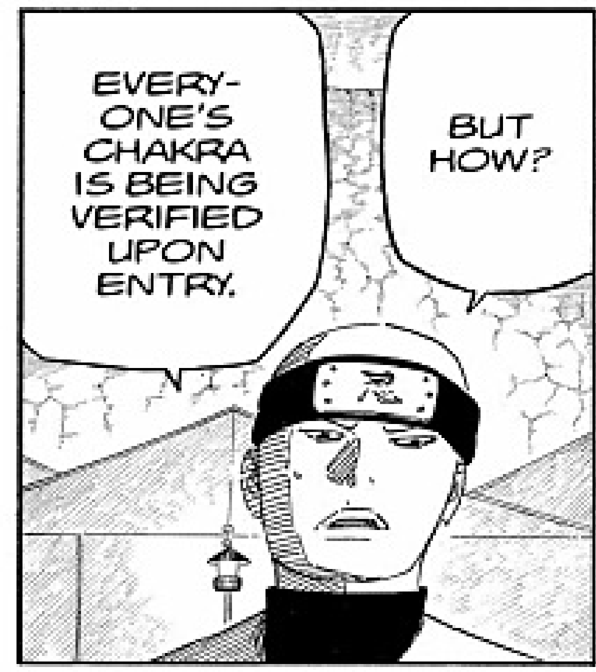

HUNH ?!

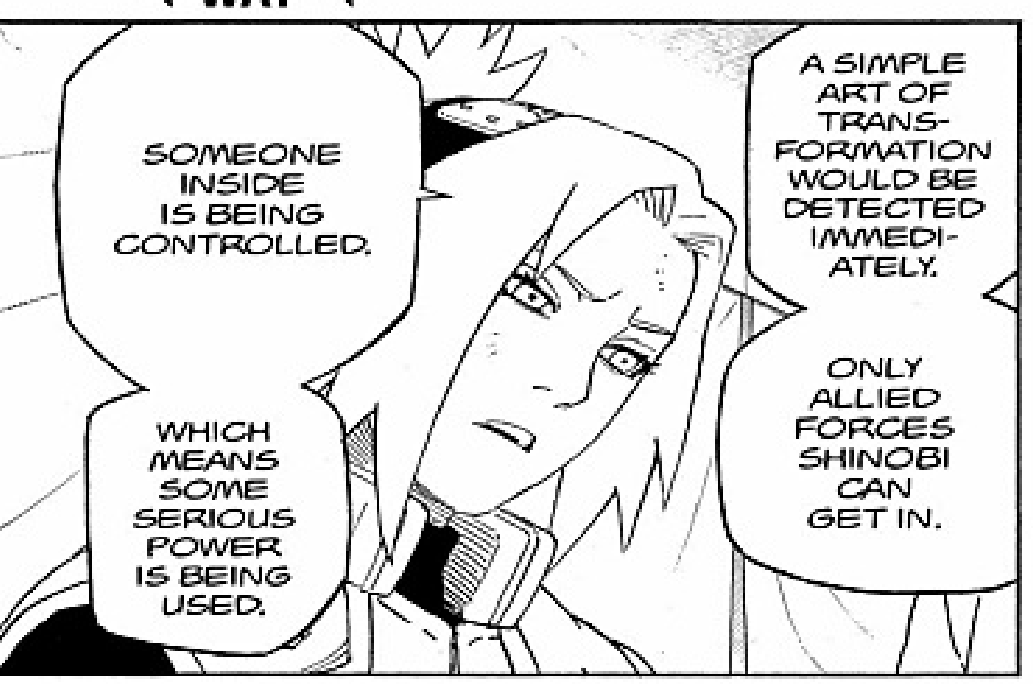

SPL
WOOSH

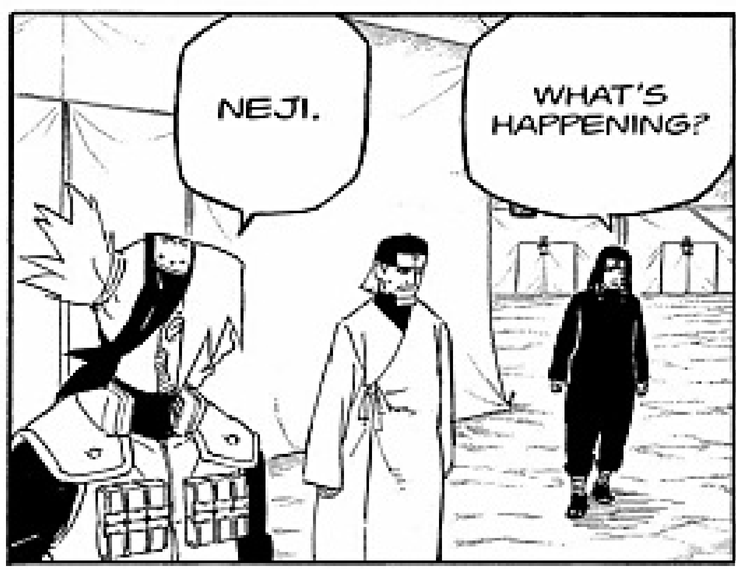


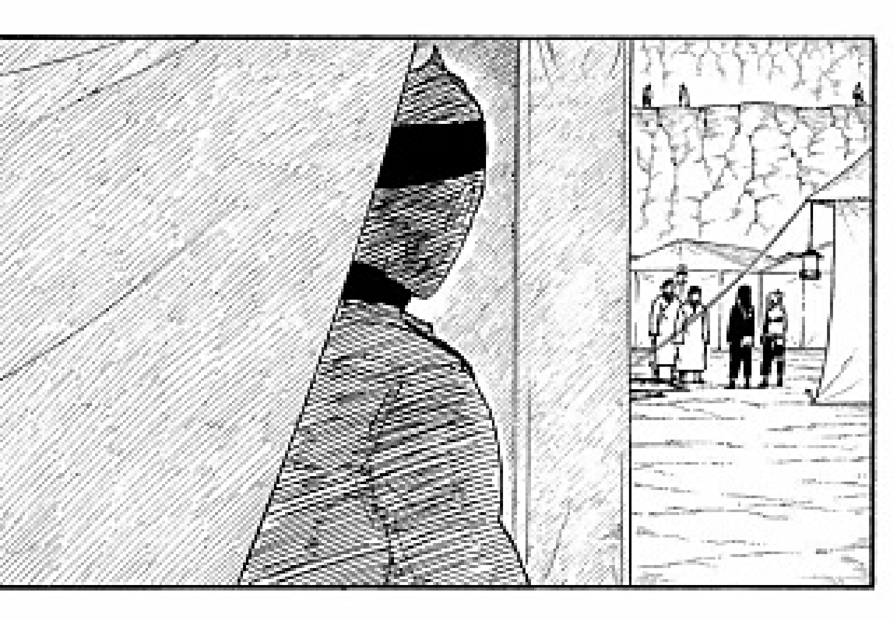

ZOOM
SOME-THING'S WRONG!
TOYOSA, TAKEMARU, AND HINO ARE DEAD!!
FWAP
MURDERED!!
?!!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'VE BEEN INFILTRATED.
THE TARGET ARE OUR JŌNIN MEDICS.


READ THIS WAY


BUT HOW?
EVERY-ONE'S CHAKRA IS BEING VERIFIED UPON ENTRY.

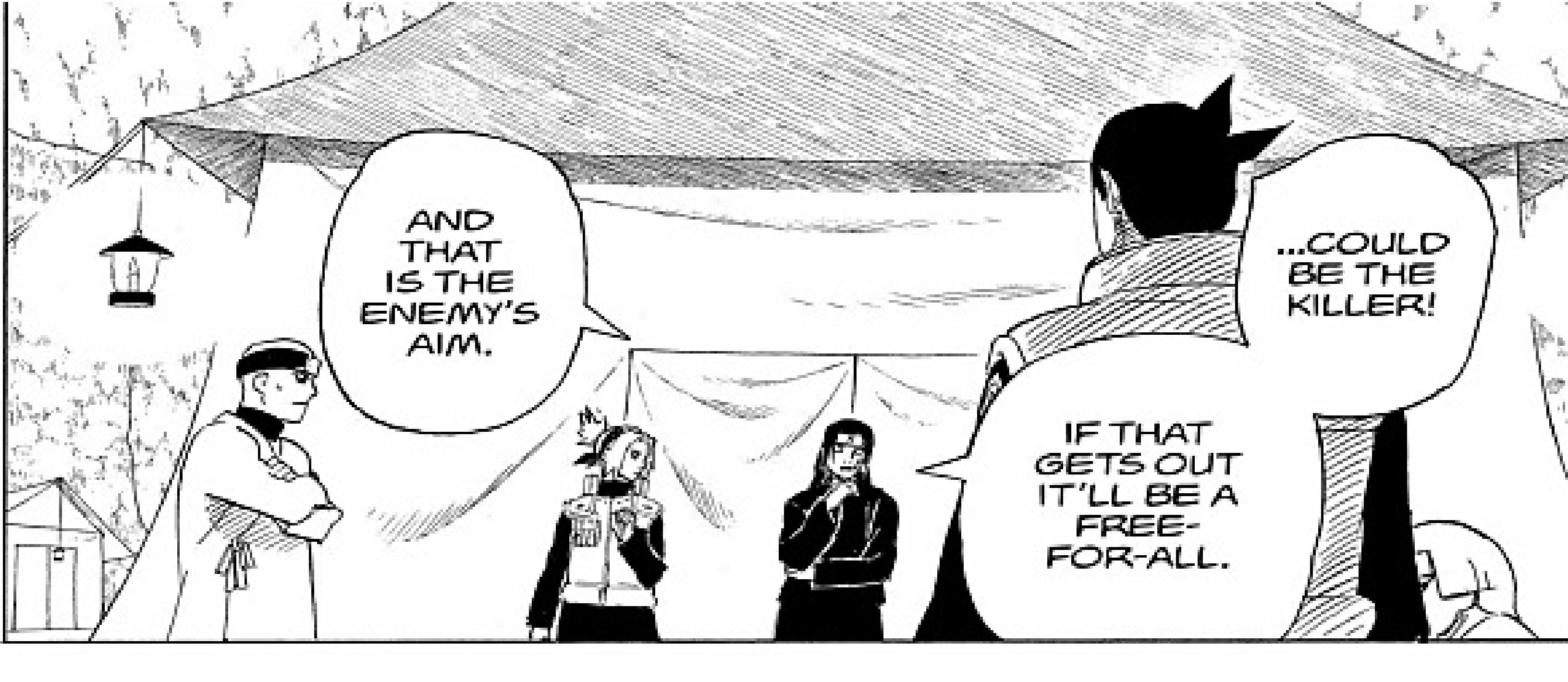

A SIMPLE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION WOULD BE DETECTED IMMEDI-ATELY.
ONLY ALLIED FORCES SHINOBI CAN GET IN.
SOMEONE INSIDE IS BEING CONTROLLED.
WHICH MEANS SOME SERIOUS POWER IS BEING USED.


WHAT'S HAPPENING?
NEJI.





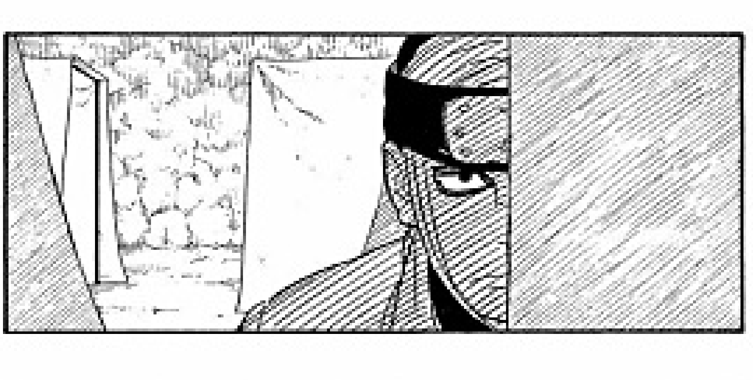

HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THE MURDERER IF IT'S ONE OF US?
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE SUSPECT IS.
ANYONE STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW...

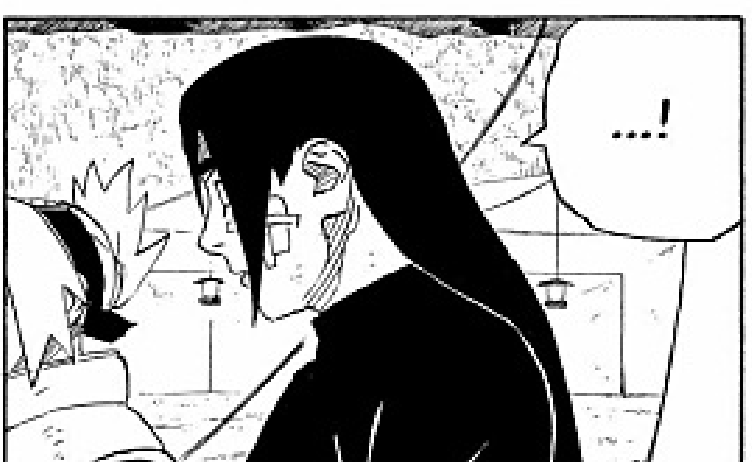

...COULD BE THE KILLER!
IF THAT GETS OUT IT'LL BE A FREE-FOR-ALL.
AND THAT IS THE ENEMY'S AIM.


MEDIC NINJA ARE PIVOTAL.
WE'RE FIGHTING AN EDOTENSEI JUTSU. WE CAN'T WIN WITHOUT MEDICS.

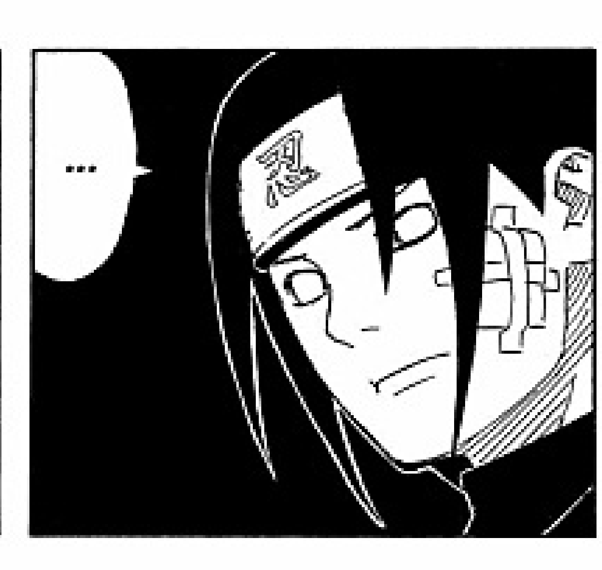

IF WE LET THIS PARALYZE US NOW...
WE LOSE AT DAWN.

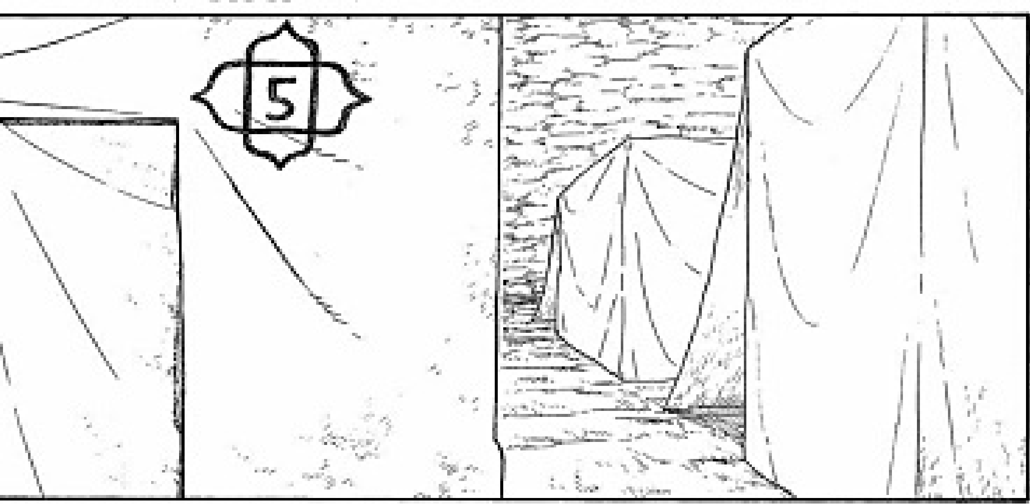

I'LL FIND THE KILLER.
WITH MY OWN EYES!



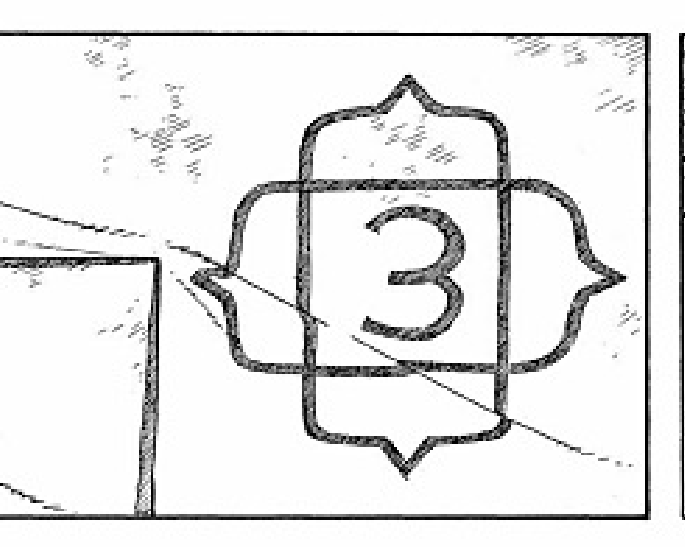

...!


READ THIS WAY

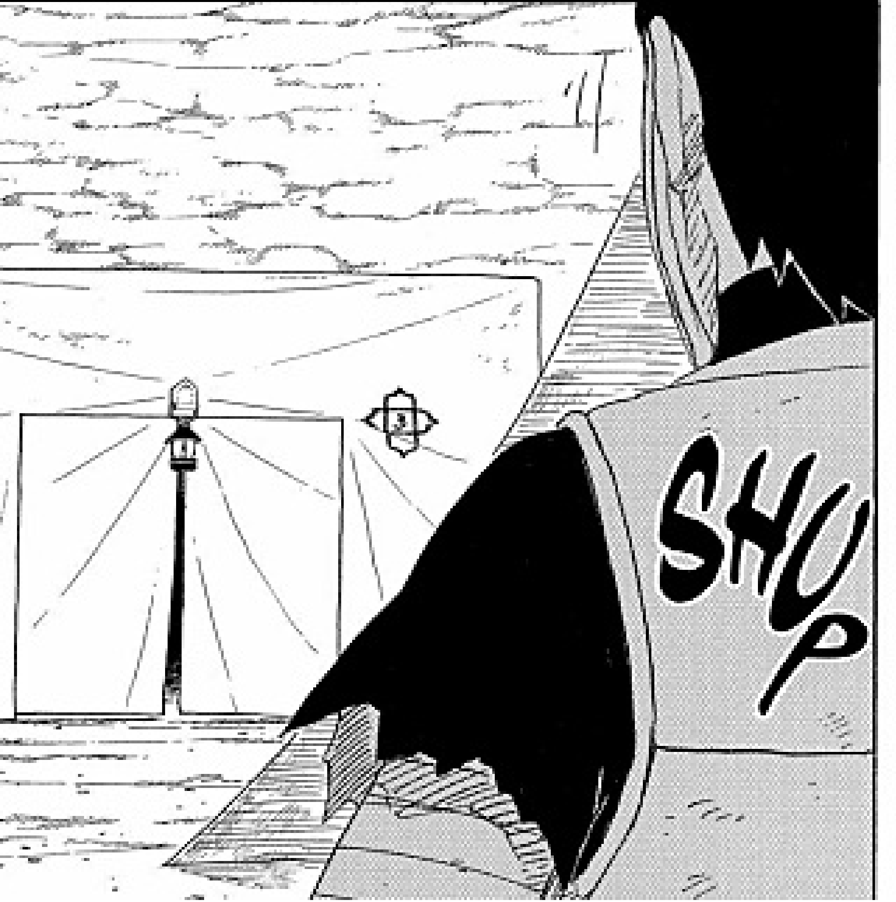

...


5

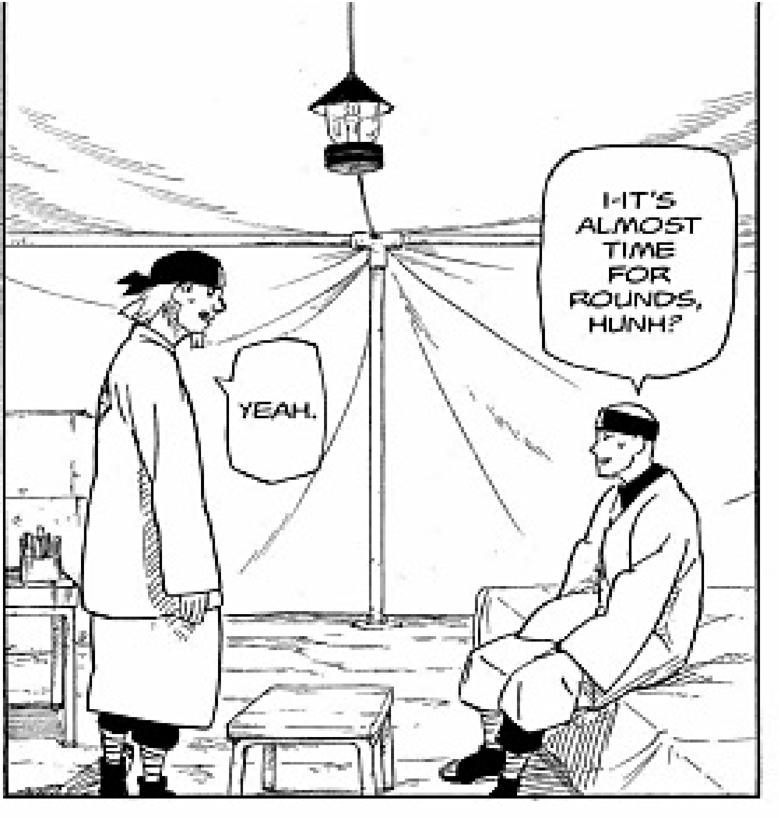

IN THE MEANTIME WE MUST CONTINUE TO HEAL OUR WOUNDED.
WE JUST NEED TO WATCH OUR BACKS... AND EACH OTHER'S... ESPECIALLY THE JŌNIN MEDICS.


3



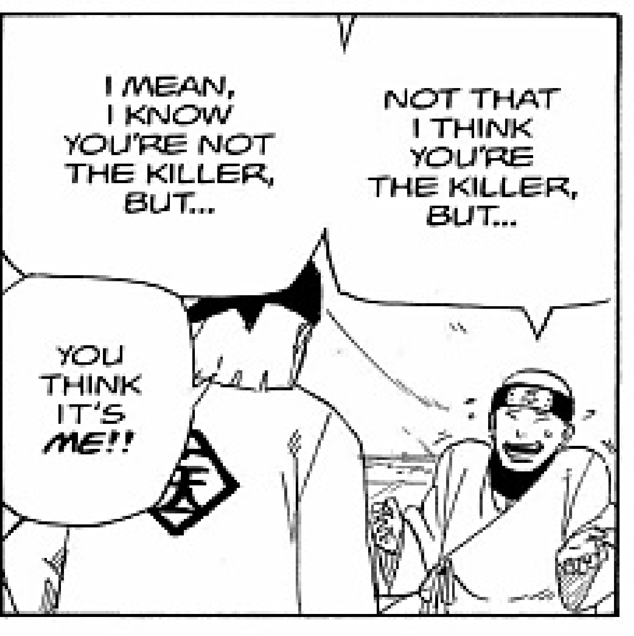

SHUP

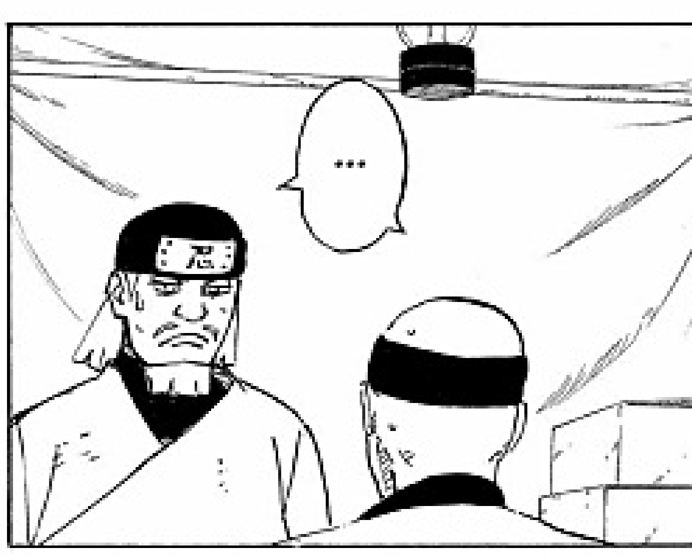


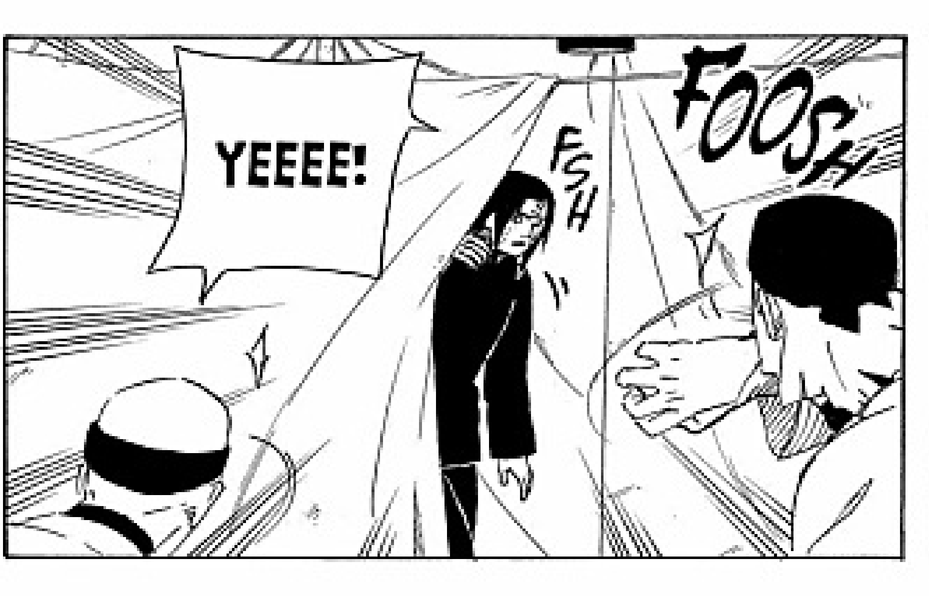

I-IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR ROUNDS, HUNH?
YEAH.


...


SO... WHERE DID I MEET YOU?
...!


NOT THAT I THINK YOU'RE THE KILLER, BUT...
I MEAN, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE KILLER, BUT...
YOU THINK IT'S *ME*!!


...


FOOSH
FSH
YEEEE!

CAN YOU TRY TO NOT SCARE PEOPLE?
HUNH ?!


HE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND SAKURA.
I WAS TAILING SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS.
BUT I LOST HIM!


WHATEVER, WHERE IS SAKURA?!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

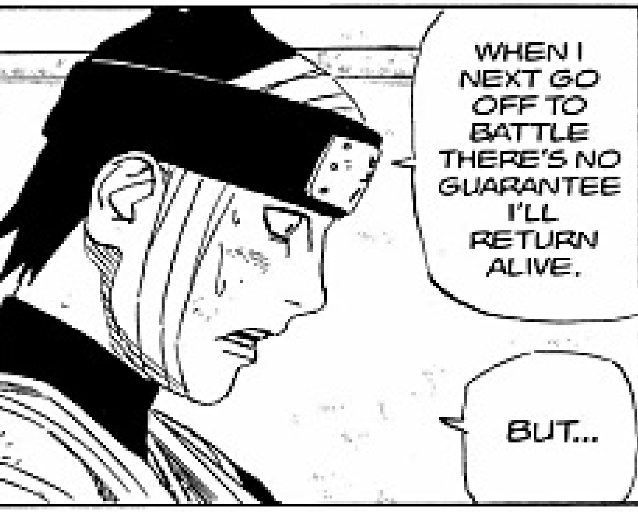



WELL... HE'S...
...

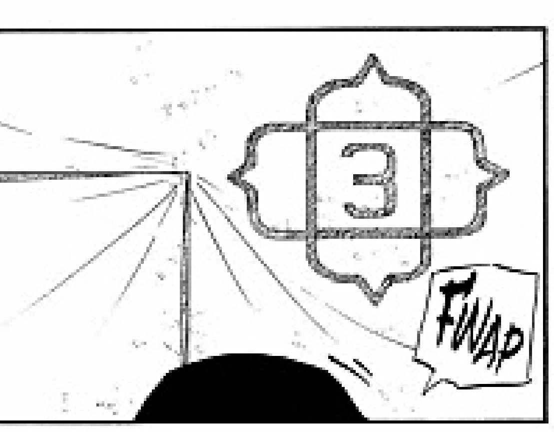

SAKURA'S IN TENT NUMBER 3.
WHAT'S THIS NINJA LOOK LIKE?

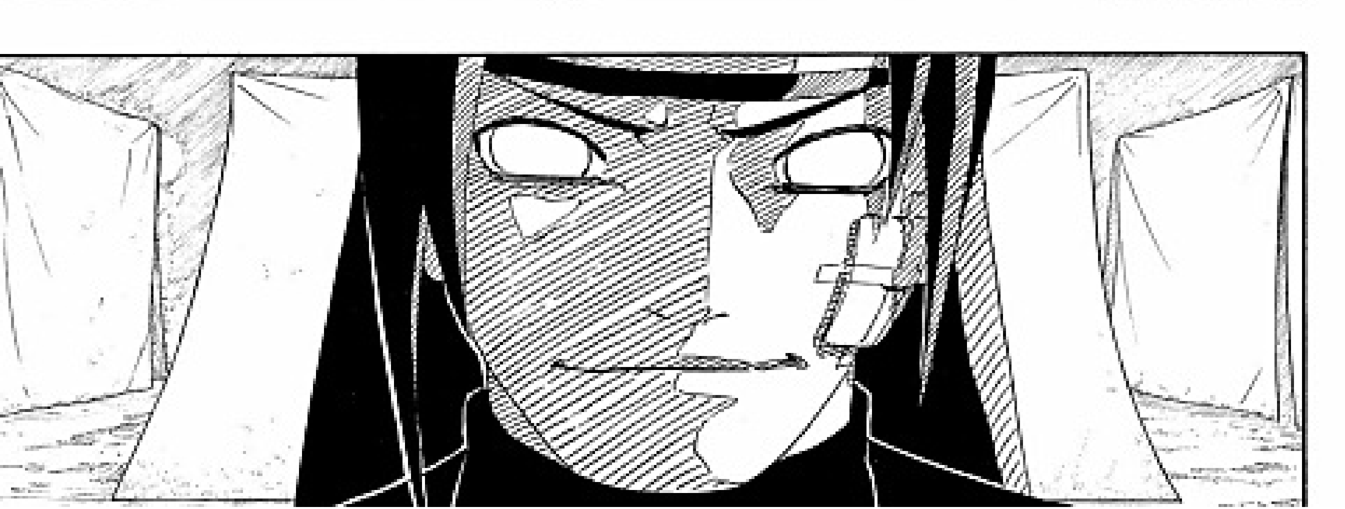

OH, IT'S YOU.
ARE YOUR WOUNDS STILL BOTHERING YOU?
OH. NO, NO. I FEEL FINE NOW.
A-ACTUALLY, EVER SINCE YOU TREATED ME...


I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU.
WHAT'S THIS?
I-IT'S A LOVE LETTER.


WHEN I NEXT GO OFF TO BATTLE THERE'S NO GUARANTEE I'LL RETURN ALIVE.
BUT...


THANK YOU.
I HAVE SOMEONE ALREADY, THOUGH, YOU SEE...
OF COURSE YOU DO...
OF COURSE YOU WOULD...


3
FWAP





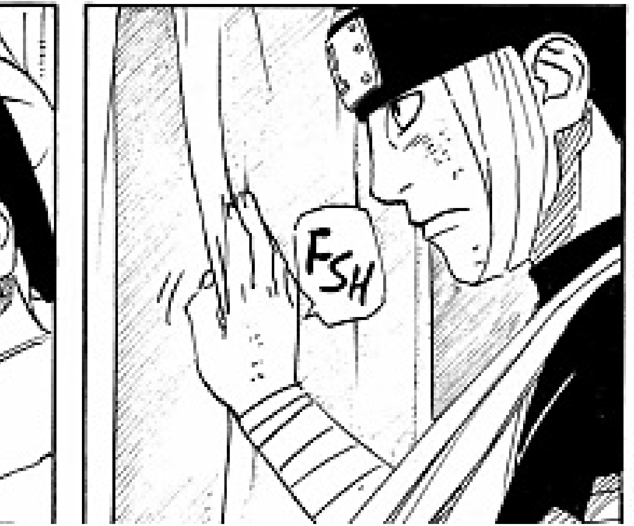

?!

?!!

HA

M



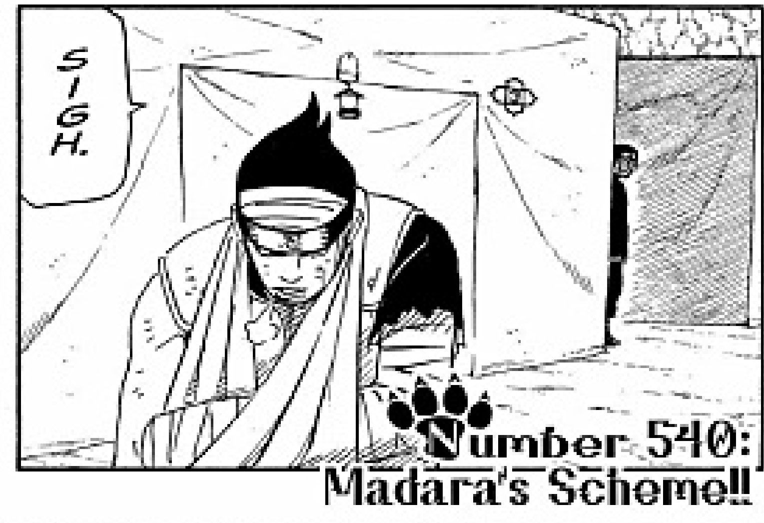



NARUTO

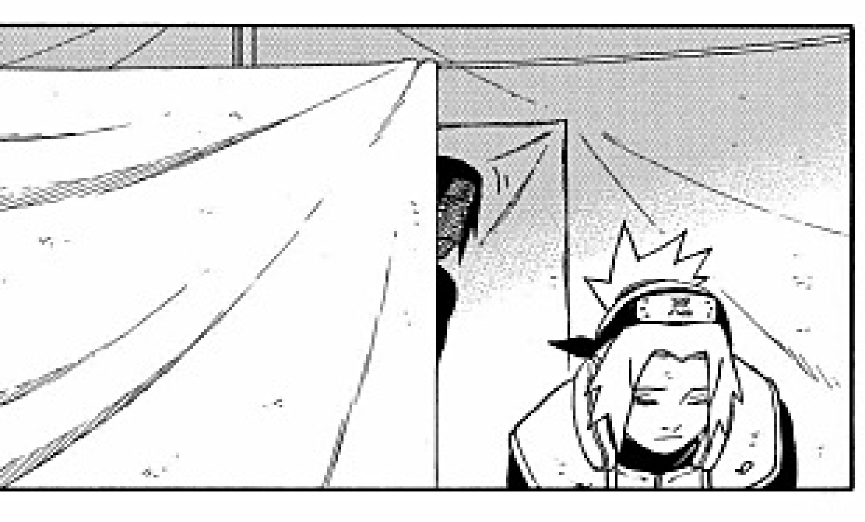


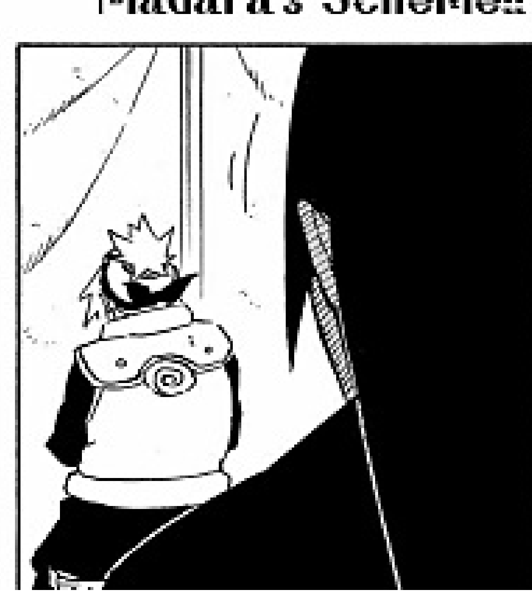




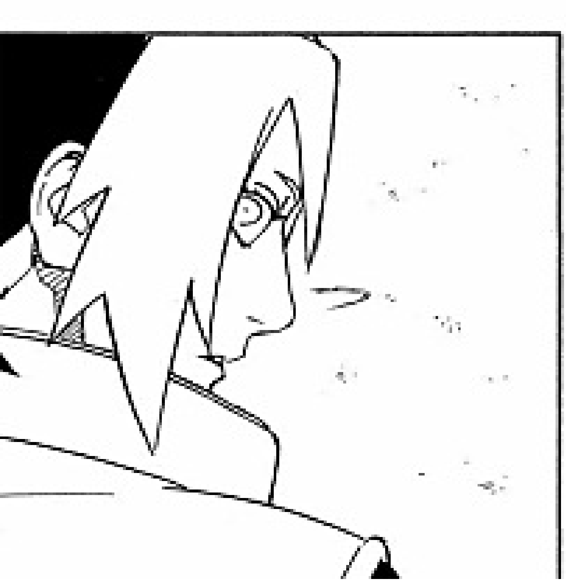


Number 540: Madara's Scheme!!









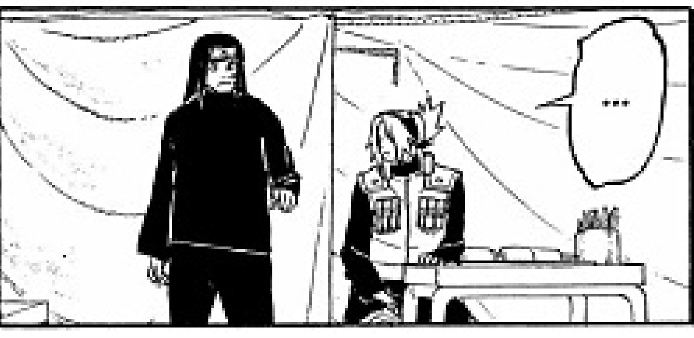
Number 540: Madara's Scheme!!

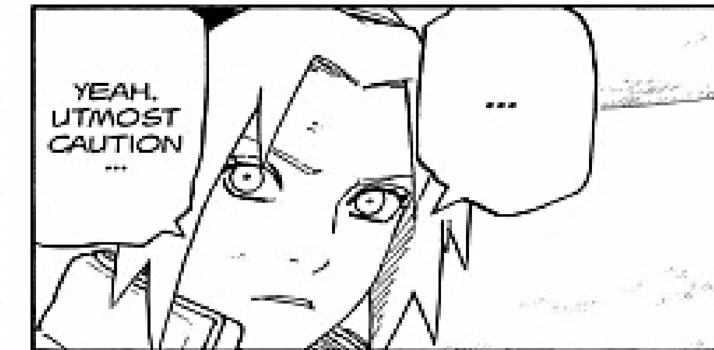
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

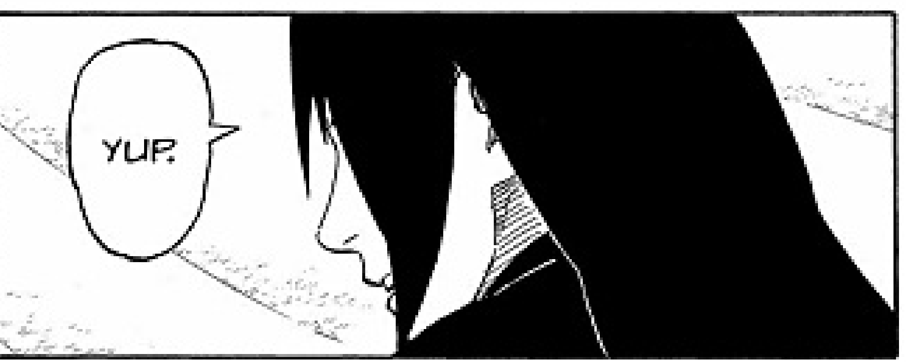
TAP

NEJI!







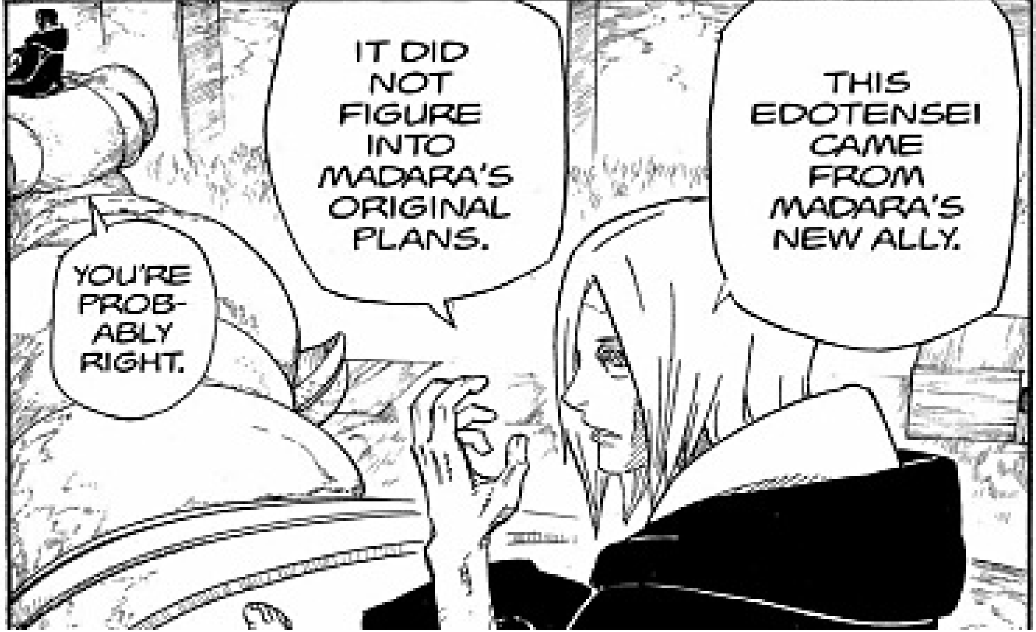


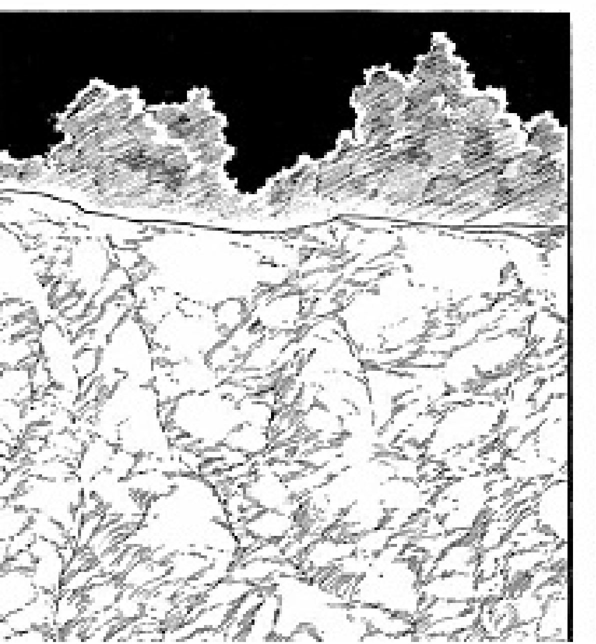

READ THIS WAY




WHAT'S THIS?
WHY IS THIS NINJA SEPARATING US FROM THE ENEMY?
HE'S NOT GOING TO USE YOUR GENJUTSU AFTER ALL?

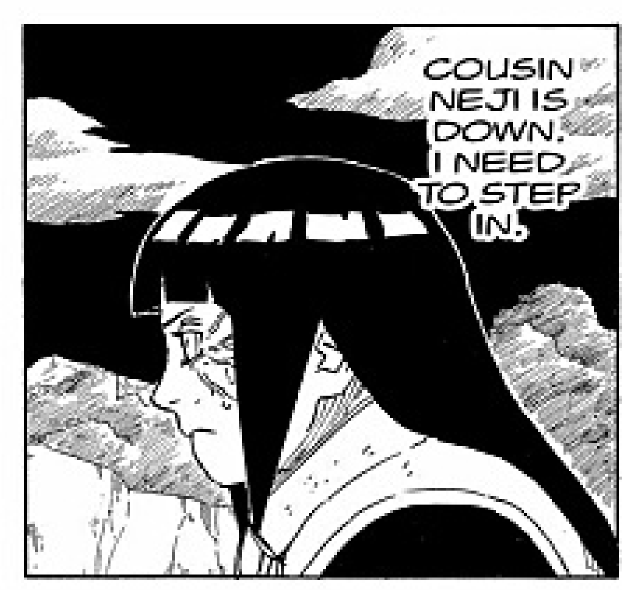

IT'S NIGHT. STALEMATE.
DON'T THINK THAT MADARA DOESN'T HAVE A PLAN IN THE WORKS.
HE'LL BREAK THE SILENCE SOON ENOUGH.

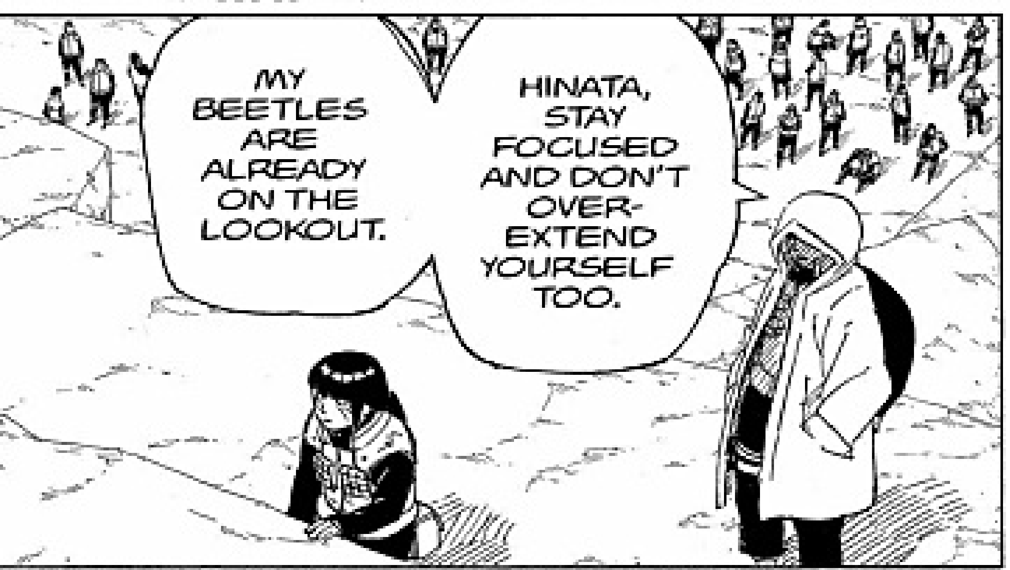

THIS EDOTENSEI CAME FROM MADARA'S NEW ALLY.
IT DID NOT FIGURE INTO MADARA'S ORIGINAL PLANS.
YOU'RE PROB-ABLY RIGHT.



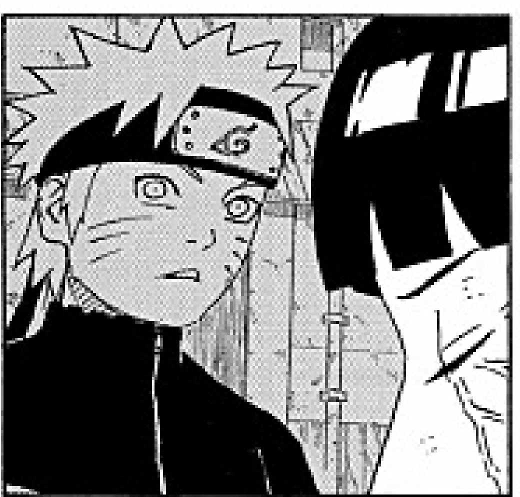

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TAKE YOU TO THE MEDIC?
KIBA! GET OUT OF HERE, I'M FINE!
YOU TOTALLY OVERUSED THE BYAKUGAN.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TRY AND SHOW OFF.
SHUT UP, KIBA!!
UM, THAT'S NOT ME... IT'S MY DOG!
IF YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR EYESIGHT THEN WE HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM!!

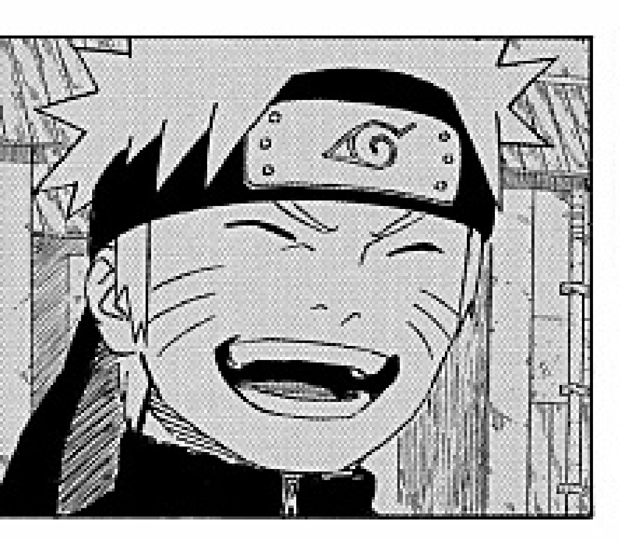












WE BATTLE FOR NARUTO!

WE CANNOT LOSE!!!!

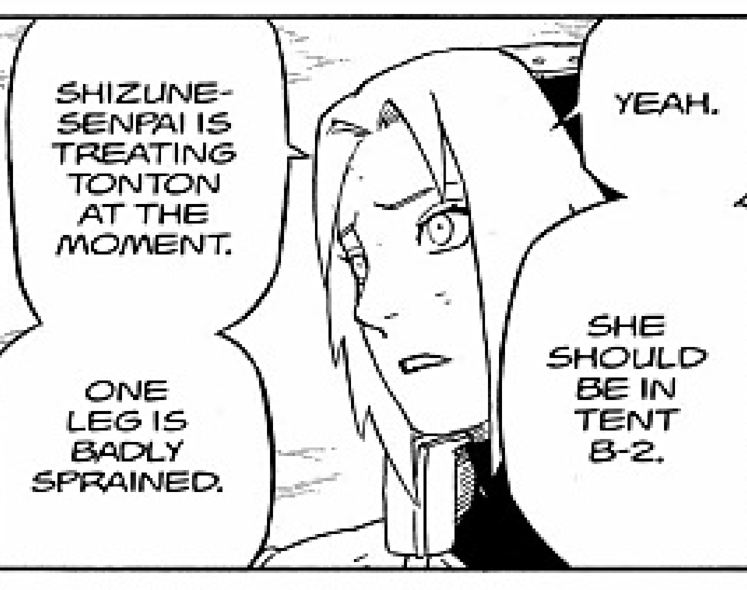
3

HEY, SAKURA, WHERE IS CAPTAIN SHIZUNE?

UH.

WHY? HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT'S GOING ON?

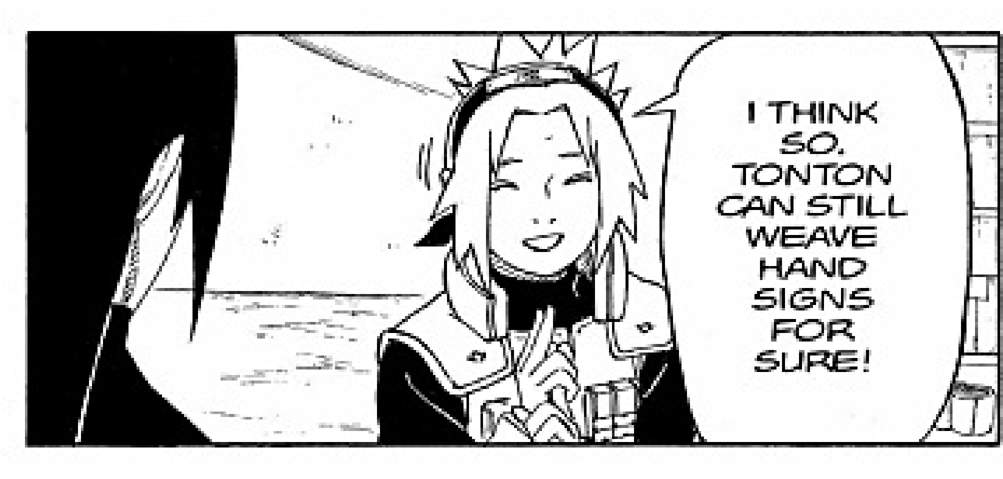






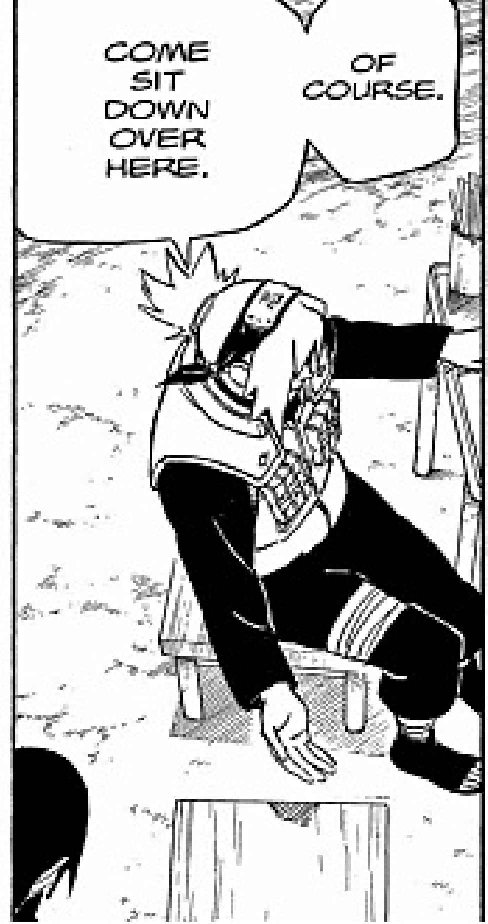


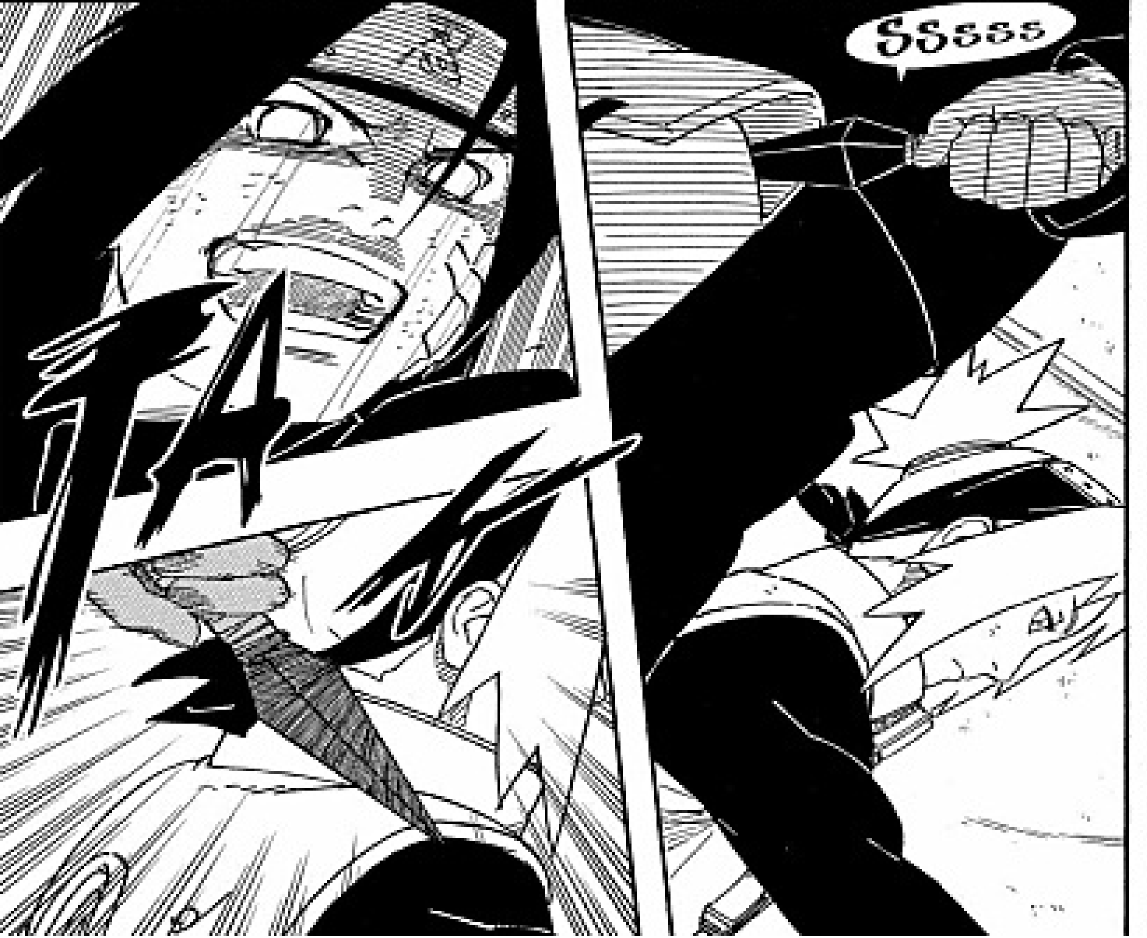

READ
THIS
WAY


I THINK SO. TONTON CAN STILL WEAVE HAND SIGNS FOR SURE!


RIGHT. GOOD.
SO...


SAKURA, CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT MY ARM AGAIN?
FSH
IT'S STILL BOTHER-ING ME.


OF COURSE.
COME SIT DOWN OVER HERE.


SSSSS

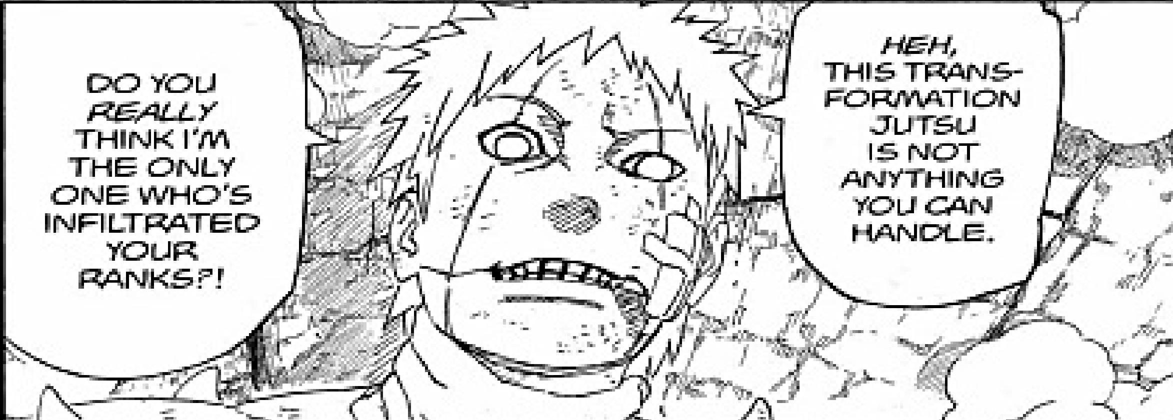


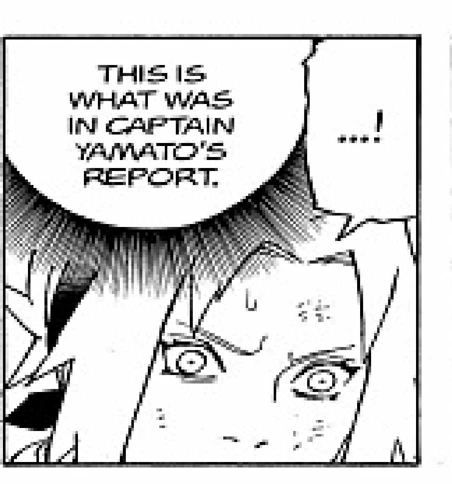
KSH
KSH
H-HOW'D YOU KNOW?!
PIGS DON'T HAVE HANDS !!
I THINK SO. TONTON CAN STILL WEAVE HAND SIGNS FOR SURE!
TONTON IS A PIG?
SHE TRICKED ME!
ZWOOOOOOO
FSH
YOU'RE THE MUR-DERER?!

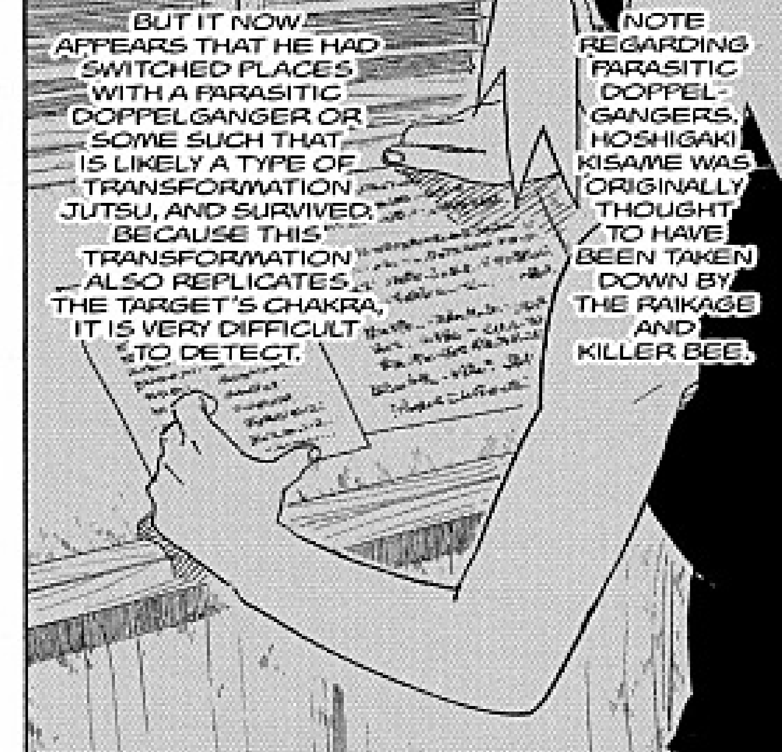

SLAM!
?!
ARGH !!!


THOOM
?!
AARGH!!


HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO RECREATE NEJI'S CHAKRA?
WHAT KIND OF JUTSU IS THIS?! YOU TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HIT AGAIN!


HEH, THIS TRANSFORMATION JUTSU IS NOT ANYTHING YOU CAN HANDLE.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S INFILTRATED YOUR RANKS?!

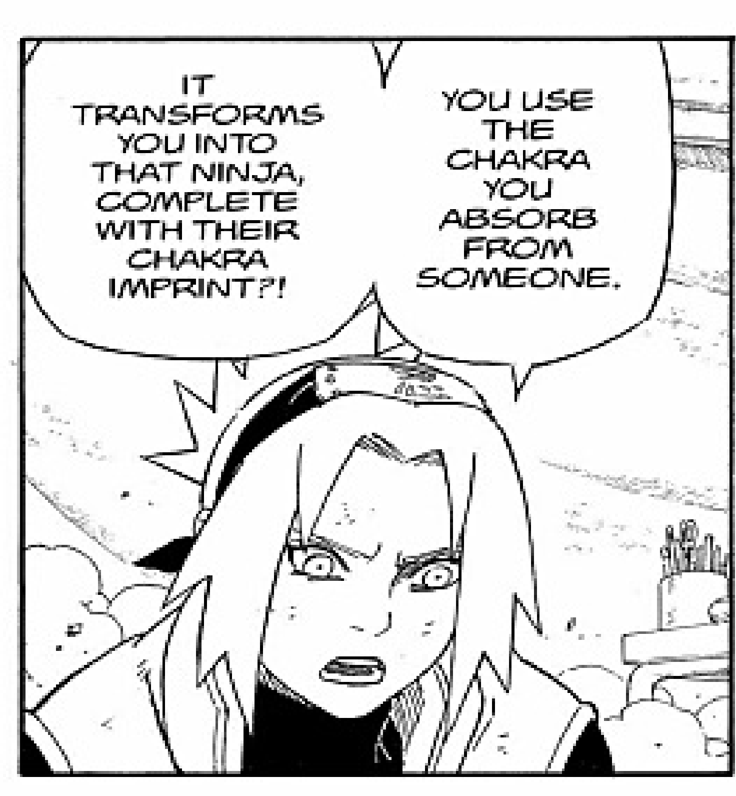

...!
THIS IS WHAT WAS IN CAPTAIN YAMATO'S REPORT.

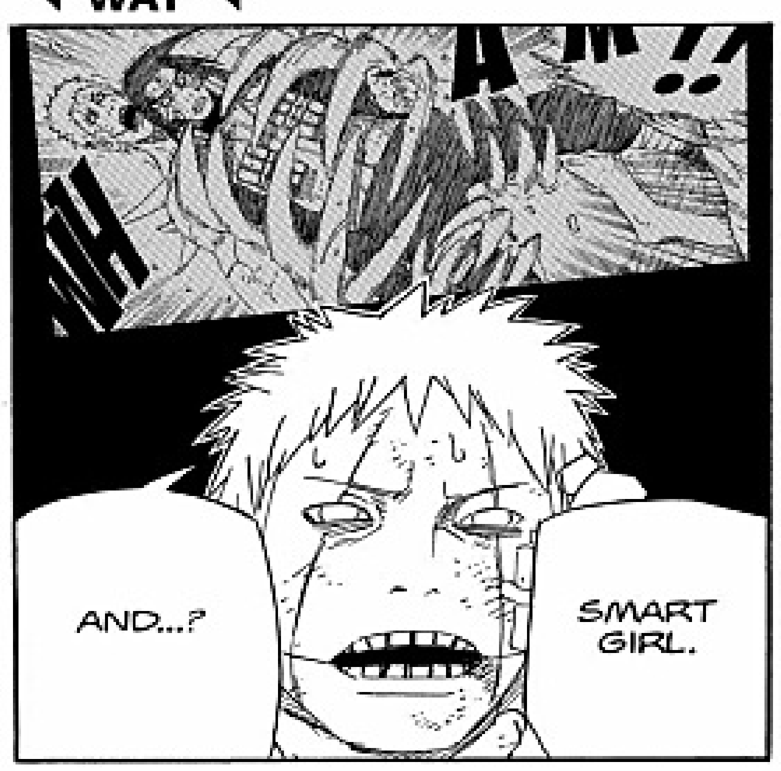

...NOTE REGARDING PARASITIC DOPPELGANGERS. HOSHIGAKI KISAME WAS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN DOWN BY THE RAIKAGE AND KILLER BEE.
BUT IT NOW APPEARS THAT HE HAD SWITCHED PLACES WITH A PARASITIC DOPPELGANGER OR SOME SUCH THAT IS LIKELY A TYPE OF TRANSFORMATION JUTSU, AND SURVIVED. BECAUSE THIS TRANSFORMATION ALSO REPLICATES THE TARGET'S CHAKRA, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DETECT.


AT THE GOKAGE COUNCIL, ZETSU OF THE AKATSUKI SUDDENLY EMERGED FROM PEOPLE'S BODIES.
HE HAD ABSORBED THEIR CHAKRA.


SO THIS GUY, PRETENDING TO BE NEJI...







SO NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!

YOUR DISGUISE IS USELESS NOW!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

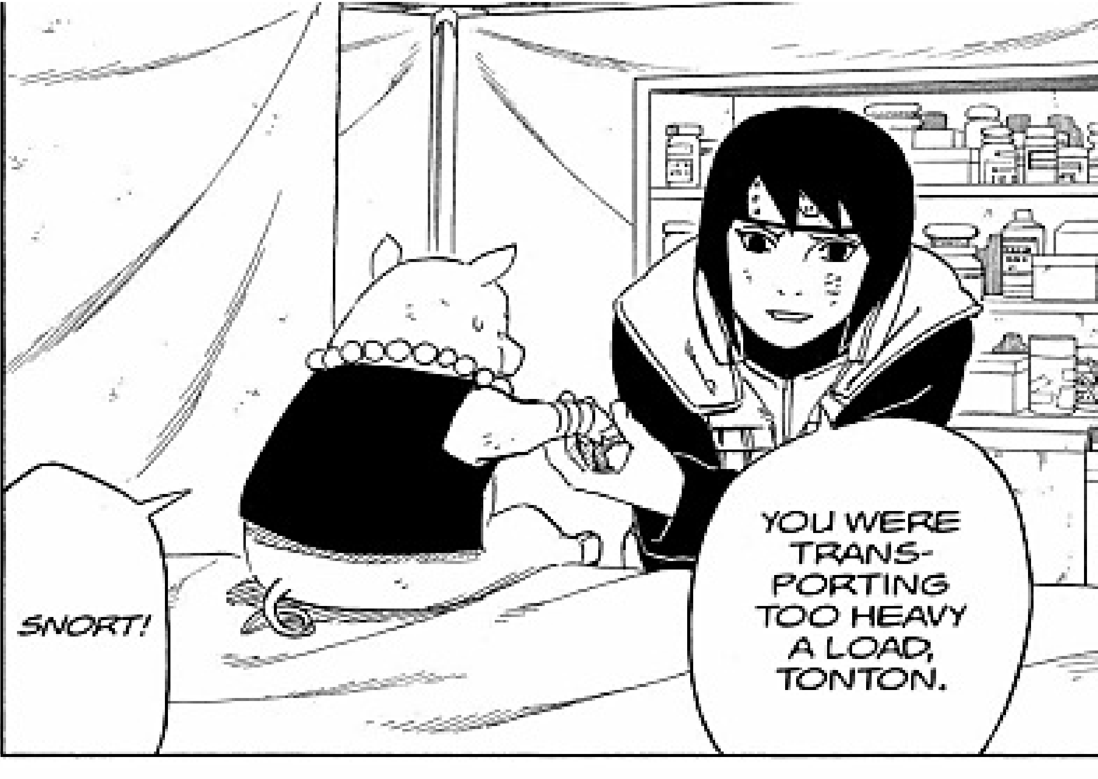
WE HEARD SCREAMS!

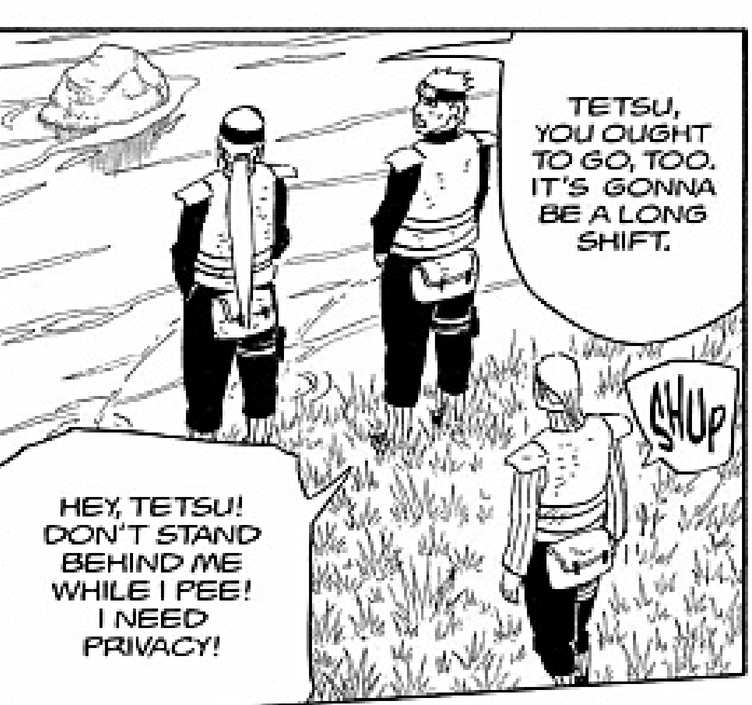
WHO IS HE?!

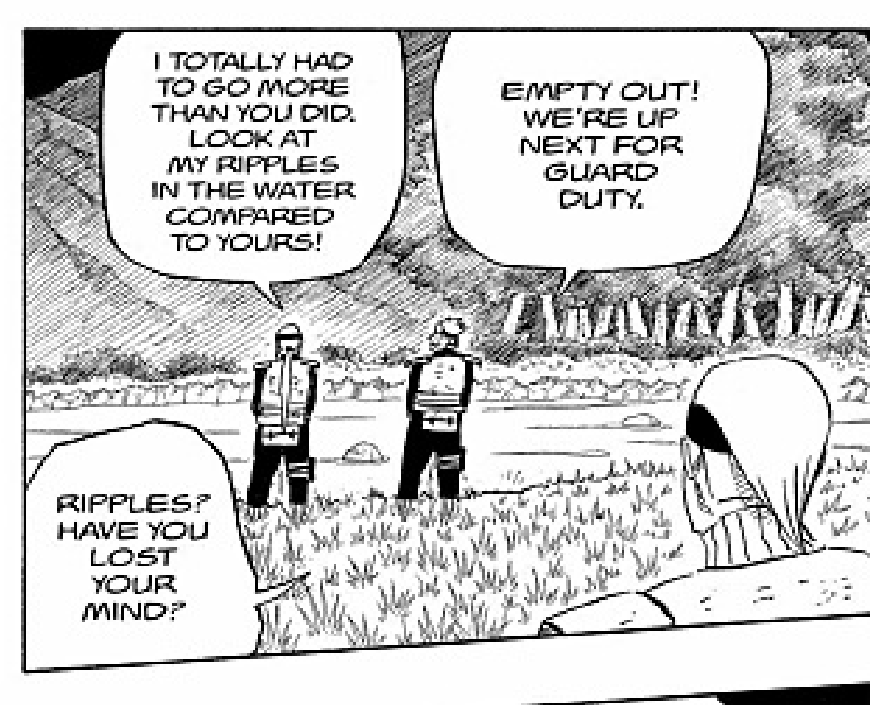
I HAVE TO CONTACT HQ RIGHT AWAY!

SECURE HIM!


PSSSSH


YOU WERE TRANS-PORTING TOO HEAVY A LOAD, TONTON.
SNORT!


TETSU, YOU OUGHT TO GO, TOO. IT'S GONNA BE A LONG SHIFT.
SHUP
HEY, TETSU! DON'T STAND BEHIND ME WHILE I PEE! I NEED PRIVACY!


EMPTY OUT! WE'RE UP NEXT FOR GUARD DUTY.
I TOTALLY HAD TO GO MORE THAN YOU DID. LOOK AT MY RIPPLES IN THE WATER COMPARED TO YOURS!
RIPPLES? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?


WHA?!


WELL, THEN...
...WHY DON'T I HELP YOU SPILL SOME-THING RED INTO THE WATER RATHER THAN YELLOW?
FSH



SKOOSH

MORE!

WE'RE GETTING REPORTS OF SURPRISE ATTACKS FROM ALL OUR REGIMENTS!

EVERY CAMP IS IN CHAOS!

WE DON'T KNOW WHO OUR ENEMY IS!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SENSORY NINJA ARE WATCHING ALL CAMPS. HOW ARE THESE ENEMIES EVADING DETECTION?

IS IT SOME SORT OF POISON? WHAT'S THE CONDITION OF THE CORPSES?

ALL EXTERNAL WOUNDS!

PHYSICAL ATTACKS!



BUT WIDE-SCALE CONTROLLING OF THIS MANY INDIVIDUALS IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY IS IMPOSSIBLE EVEN FOR ITACHI!
UCHIHA ITACHI IS THE ONLY ONE I KNOW OF WHO WOULD BE UNDETECTABLE BY MY SENSORY UNIT, YET STILL BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE WITH GENJUTSU.



SOMEONE FROM THE OUTSIDE MUST BE USING SOME SORT OF CONTROL GENJUTSU.
ITACHI?



HOW DO WE FIGHT OUR OWN ARMY?
WHAT DO WE DO, SHIKAKU?!
OUR SOLDIERS WILL START KILLING EACH OTHER!
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.



IT'S WHITE ZETSU IMPERSONATING ALLIED FORCES SHINOBI.
THEY'RE ABLE TO MIRROR CHAKRA IMPRINTS!
!
HOLD ON! I'M GETTING A REPORT FROM THE MEDICAL UNIT!



ANY SHINOBI THAT THE ZETSU UNITS ABSORBED CHAKRA FROM DURING BATTLE COULD BE A SLEEPER AGENT!
OF COURSE!



SO THIS WAS WHITE ZETSU'S ABILITY, HUH.

CHAKRA ABSORBED DURING DAYTIME BATTLES TURN TO SECRET NIGHTTIME ASSAULTS.

THAT WAS THE ENEMY'S TRUE MOTIVE.

...

I NEED TO THINK! BE CALM.

I KNOW I CAN SOLVE THIS.








WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT'RE ALL THESE FUZZY THINGS?!
WHOA!!
?!
THOOM
G-GRANNY?!!
BRO... BBB... BRA?
BEE!!!
EYES UP. HAVE SOME RESPECT!!!
OH NO...! NO, NO DISRESPECT! I MEANT TO BRO NOT...♪
I CAN'T HELP THAT THAT HOKAGE IS SO HOT!♪
WE ARE HERE TO STOP YOU!!
YOU WILL NOT PASS!!


SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM
?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
WOOOOOSH

Number 541: Raikage vs. Naruto?!

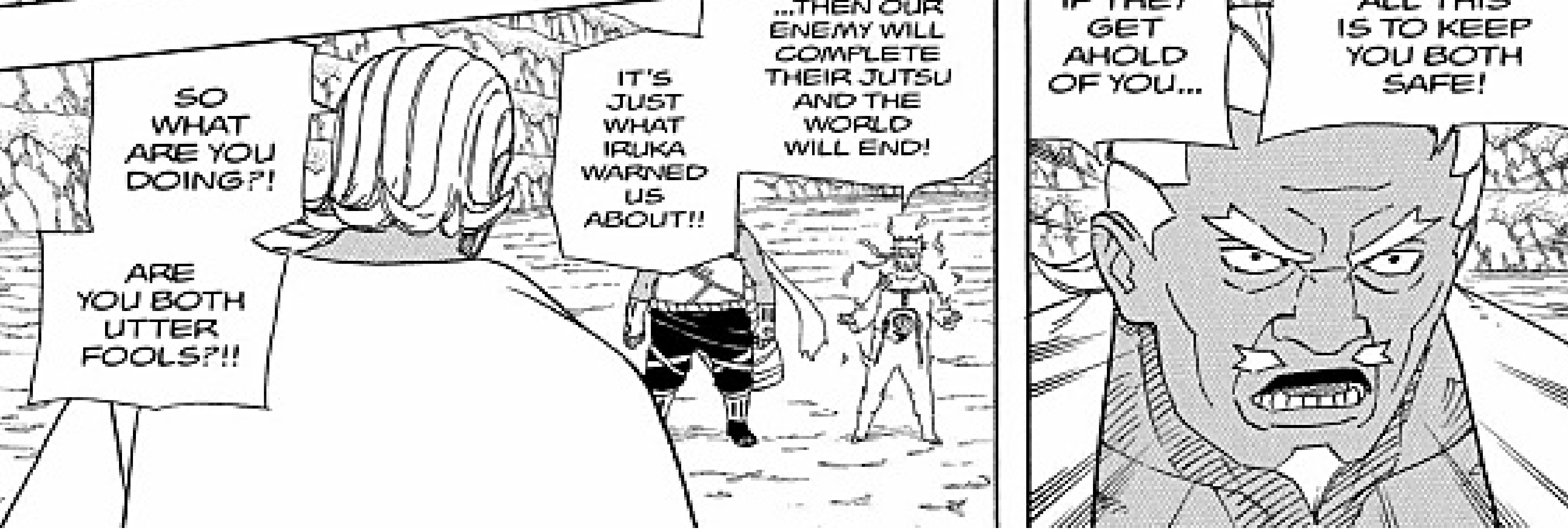





NARUTO

YOU WILL NOT PASS!!!

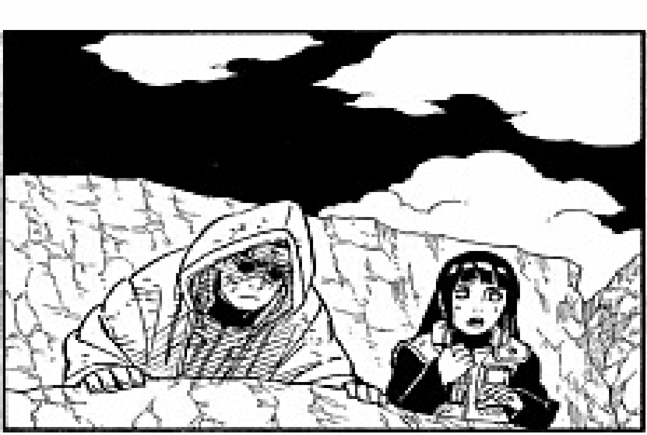


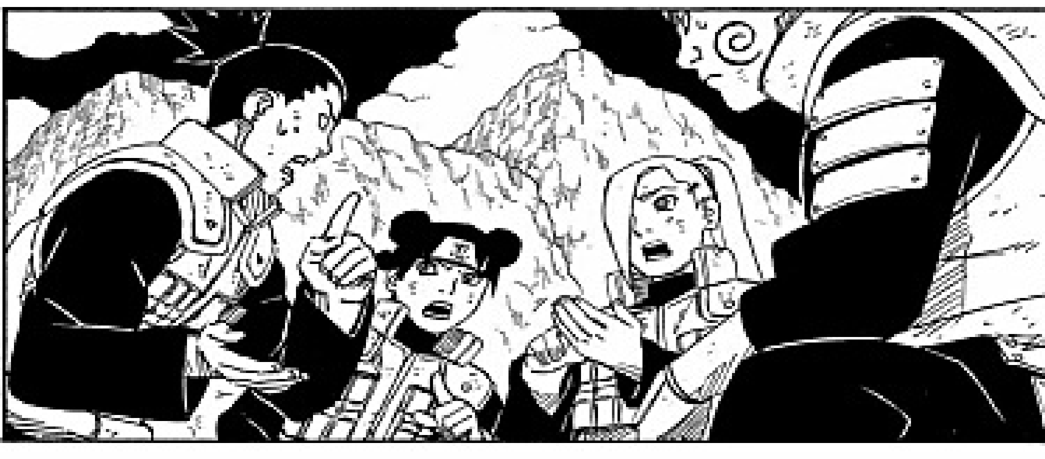


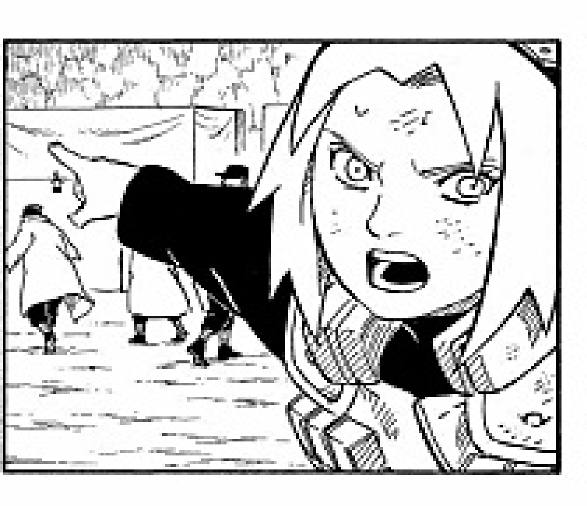

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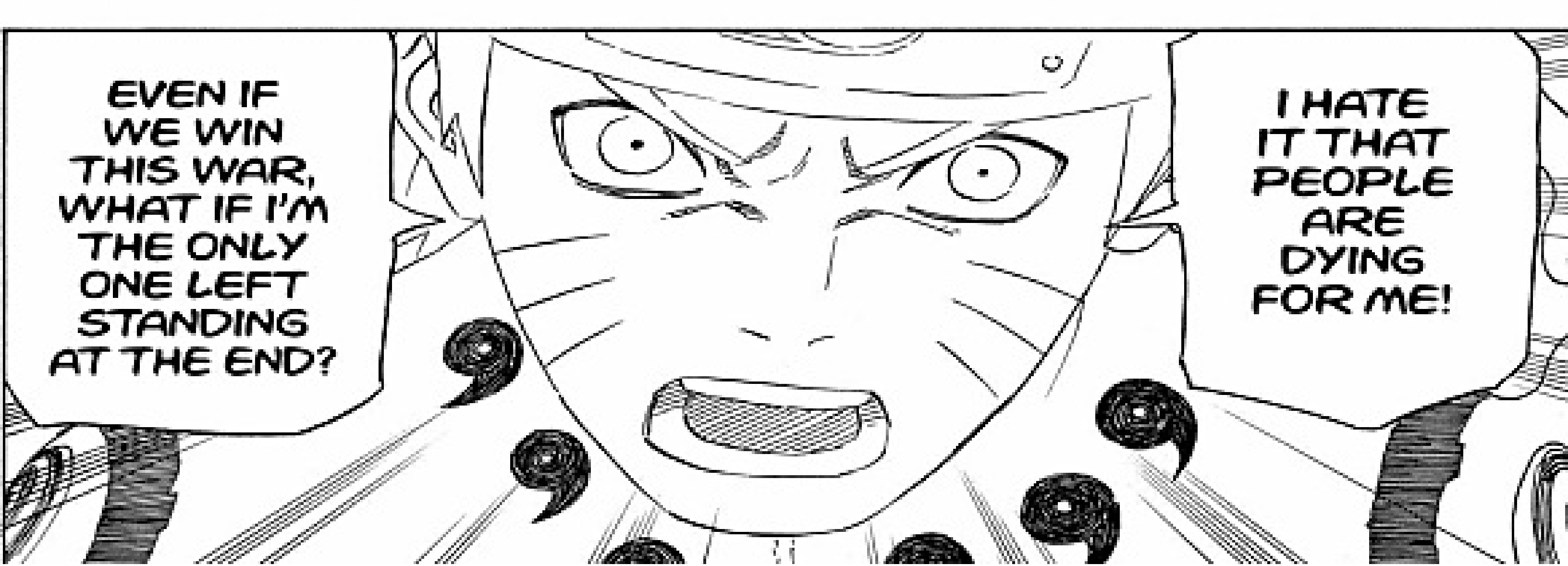











I HATE IT THAT PEOPLE ARE DYING FOR ME!
EVEN IF WE WIN THIS WAR, WHAT IF I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT STANDING AT THE END?



IT'S NOT WORTH IT!!
I DON'T WANT IT!!
BZP BZP
FSH
IT'S BETTER THAN THE WORLD ENDING!
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO PROTECT YOU!
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE!
NOT WHEN PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING FOR ME!
I WON'T!
ENOUGH!!
YOU STILL SHALL NOT PASS!!
WHAMM
WHOOM


?!!
TAK
BAM
HE CAN KEEP UP WITH MY BIJU MODE ...?!

WHOA, THIS PUNCH. IT'S SUPER-SOLID. THAT COULD HURT SOMEBODY!!

SCREEECH

THOOM

GRANNY TSUNADE, YOU KNOW ME!!

I'LL STOP THIS WAR!!

SO LET ME GO!!

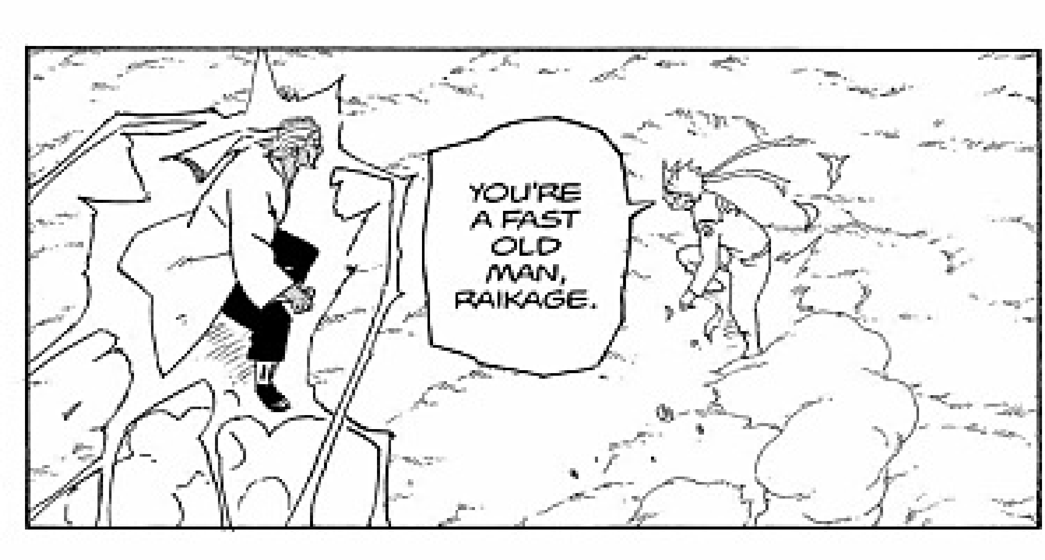


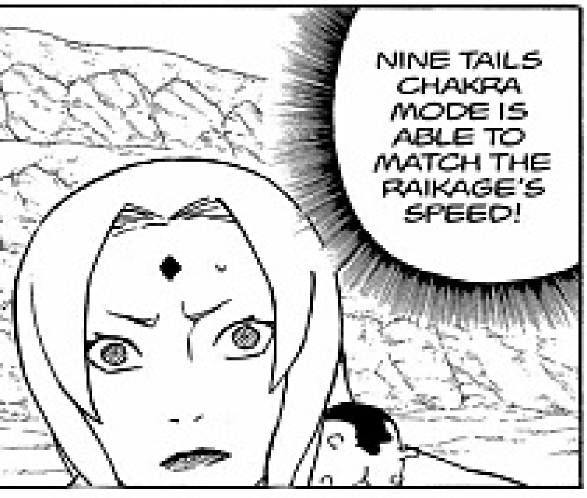


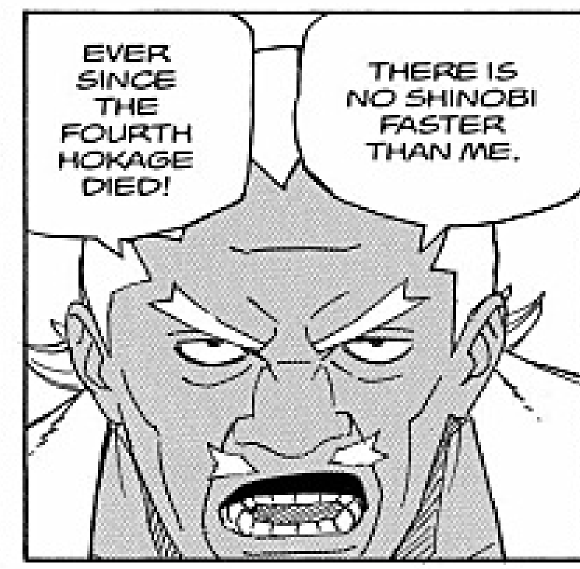



...
SIGH.
FINE.
IT'S POLITICS. NOT YOUR FAULT.
SO...
I'LL FORCE MY WAY PAST YOU!!
BZP
FASTER THIS TIME.
BZP
WSP

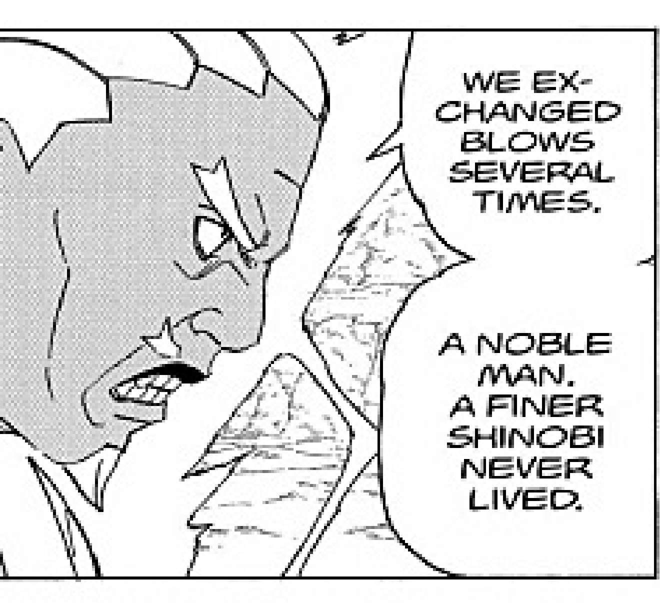

READ THIS WAY

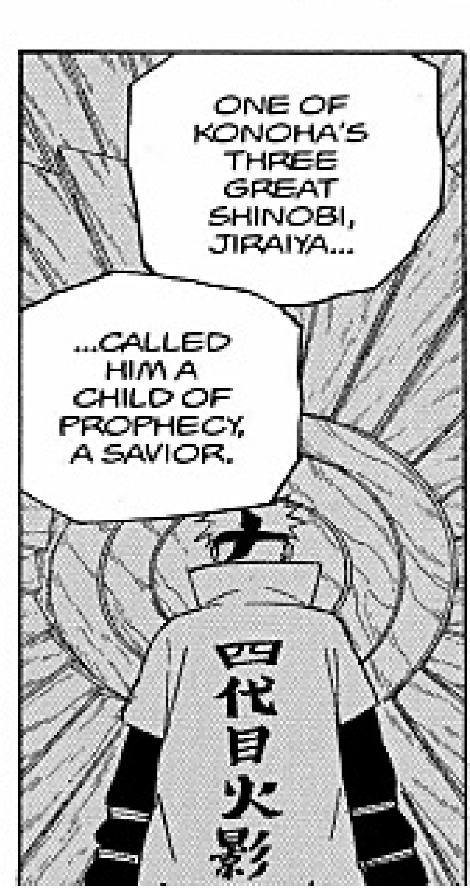

YOU'RE A FAST OLD MAN, RAIKAGE.


NINE TAILS CHAKRA MODE IS ABLE TO MATCH THE RAIKAGE'S SPEED!


THERE IS NO SHINOBI FASTER THAN ME.
EVER SINCE THE FOURTH HOKAGE DIED!


!
YOU KNEW MY PA?!


WE EX-CHANGED BLOWS SEVERAL TIMES.
A NOBLE MAN. A FINER SHINOBI NEVER LIVED.


ONE OF KONOHA'S THREE GREAT SHINOBI, JIRAIYA...
...CALLED HIM A CHILD OF PROPHECY, A SAVIOR.
四代目火影

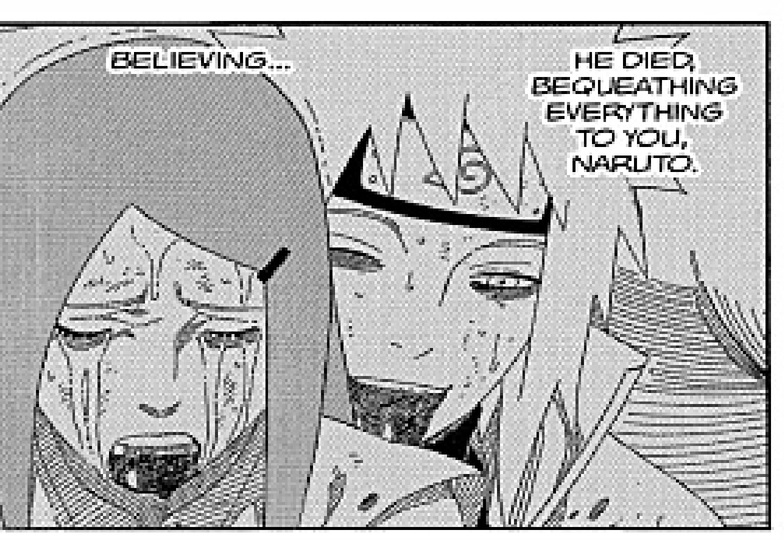

BUT EVEN SO, WITH ALL HIS POWER, WHY DO YOU THINK HE IS NOT HERE TODAY TO HELP STOP THIS CRISIS?
BECAUSE HE UNDER-ESTIMATED THE DANGER OF THE TAILED BEASTS!
YOU ARE HIS SON. AND YOU HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM HIS SACRIFICE?


YOU TALK OF UNCERTAIN OUTCOMES.









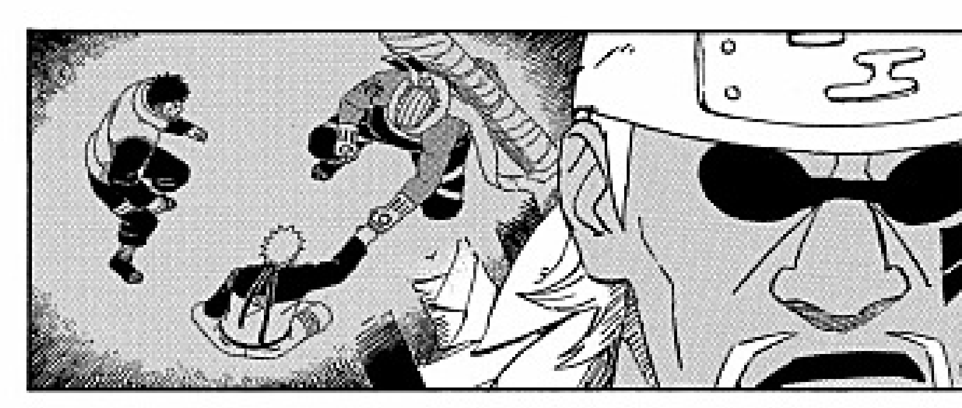
...IN *YOU.*

THE FOURTH HOKAGE DID *NOT* MAKE ANY MISTAKES!!!


KNOW WHAT? DON'T SPEAK OF MY FATHER.

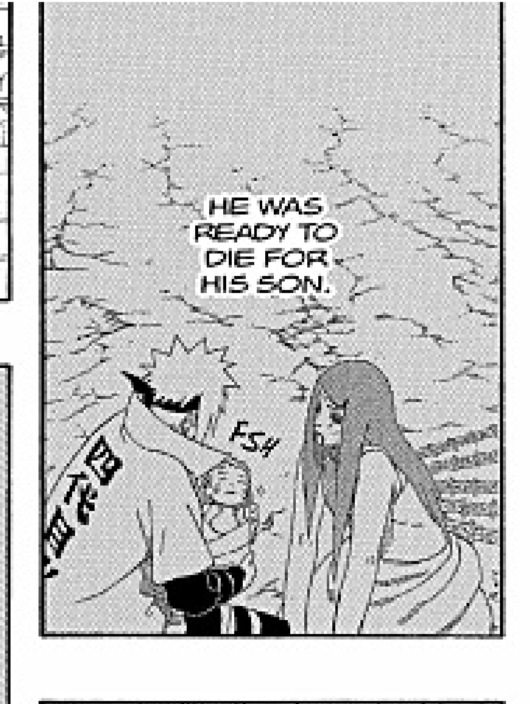

?!


...?




AND WHEN YOU WERE BORN...
MINATO SAID, "I'M A FATHER NOW!" AND HE CRIED!


HE USED ALL OF HIS ENERGY TO DRAW MADARA AND NINE TAILS AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE.
WSP


HE WAS READY TO DIE FOR HIS SON.
FSH


HE SEALED HALF OF THE NINE TAILS' CHAKRA INSIDE HIMSELF.



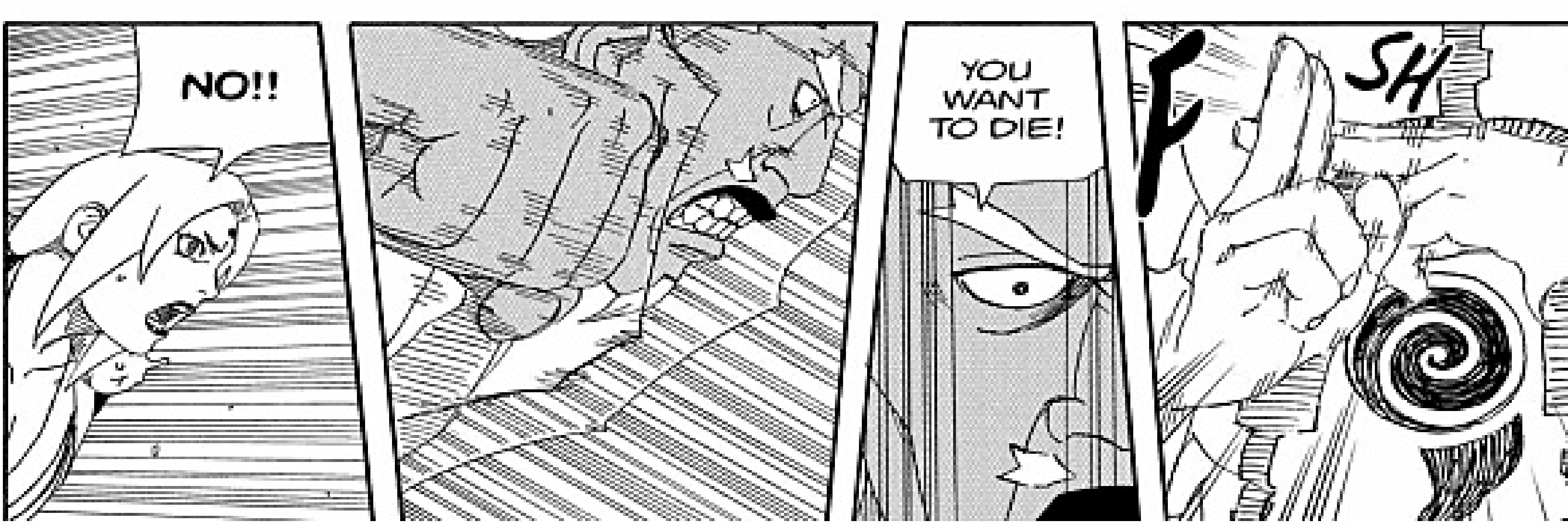
STAND DOWN!

RAI-KAGE!!

WHAT ?!








!!
?!!
?!!
BEE?!
!!
PHEW. WE'RE SAVED!


G-G-
YOU KILL HIM, YOU KILL ME AND EIGHT TAILS *TOO!*♪
STANDING HERE YELLING, ACTING LIKE A *FOOL.*♪
IT'S TIME FOR NARUTO TO MAKE A NEW *RULE!*♪
OCTO-POPS.
RAIKAGE!! YOU MAY ***NOT*** MAKE ANY ARBITRARY DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING THE OTHER ALLIED SHINOBI FORCES LEADERS!
SUPREME COM-MANDER OR NOT, I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
I HAVE THE RESPON-SIBILITY TO ENSURE VICTORY IN THIS WAR!!
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO ACHIEVE THAT!!
THEN, LIKE EIGHT TAILS SAID, WHY TARGET NARUTO OVER HIM?!!
IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I'LL BE PREPARED TO KILL ANYONE. EVEN BEE!!
BEE IS A GREATER MILITARY ASSET BECAUSE HE CAN PRODUCE AND CONTROL BIJU BOMBS!!!
BUT IF I HAVE TO CHOOSE, I CHOOSE NARUTO!!



LET GO, BEE!!

NO WAY!

YOU JINCHŪRIKI ARE NOT FREE!

YOU BELONG TO YOUR NATION AND YOUR VILLAGE. YOU KEEP THE BALANCE OF POWER FOR YOUR PEOPLE!!

YOU THINK YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT? DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOTHING OF YOUR POSITIONS?

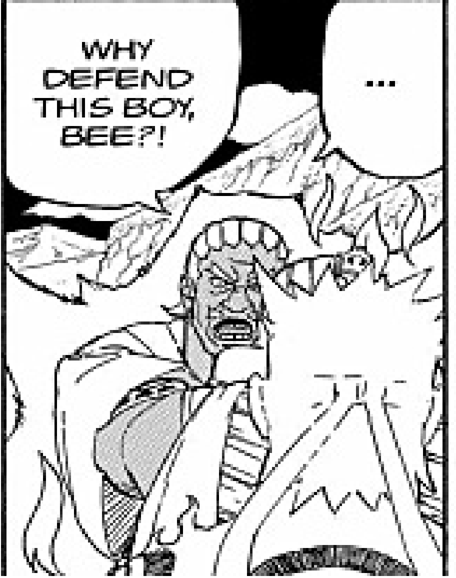
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

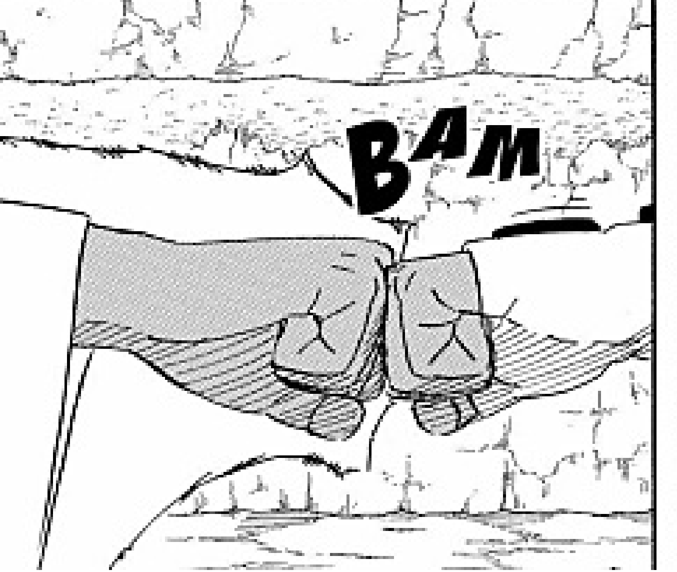
BUT I'M STILL A *MAN.*♪

AND I'LL DO WHAT I *CAN.*♪

ZWW







FIST BUMP!
READ MY SOUL, BROTHER.
...?!
...
NO DECENT PROSPECTS THIS TIME.
LISTEN UP, ALL OF YOU!


READ THIS WAY
ONLY ONE OF YOU CAN INHERIT THE TITLE OF BEE!!
AY HERE IS A CANDIDATE TO BECOME THE NEXT RAIKAGE!
YOU ALL KNOW THAT HERE IN KUMOGAKURE, EACH RAIKAGE IS ASSIGNED A TAG TEAM PARTNER!
SOMEONE WHO WILL DRAW OUT THE RAIKAGE'S FULL POWER.
TO BE BEE IS TO BE THE BODY-GUARD OF THE RAIKAGE.
WE'RE NOW GOING TO TEST YOUR COMPATI-BILITY WITH AY, ONE BY ONE!
YOU'LL ATTEMPT TO CHOP THIS RUBBER DOLL'S HEAD OFF TOGETHER WITH AY, USING THE DOUBLE LARIAT!
LISTEN! THE DOUBLE LARIAT IS SET UP SUCH THAT IT ONLY WORKS IF YOU APPLY EQUAL STRENGTH FROM BOTH SIDES!
BYON
IF ONE SIDE IS TOO STRONG OR TOO WEAK, THE HEAD MERELY GETS BENT!

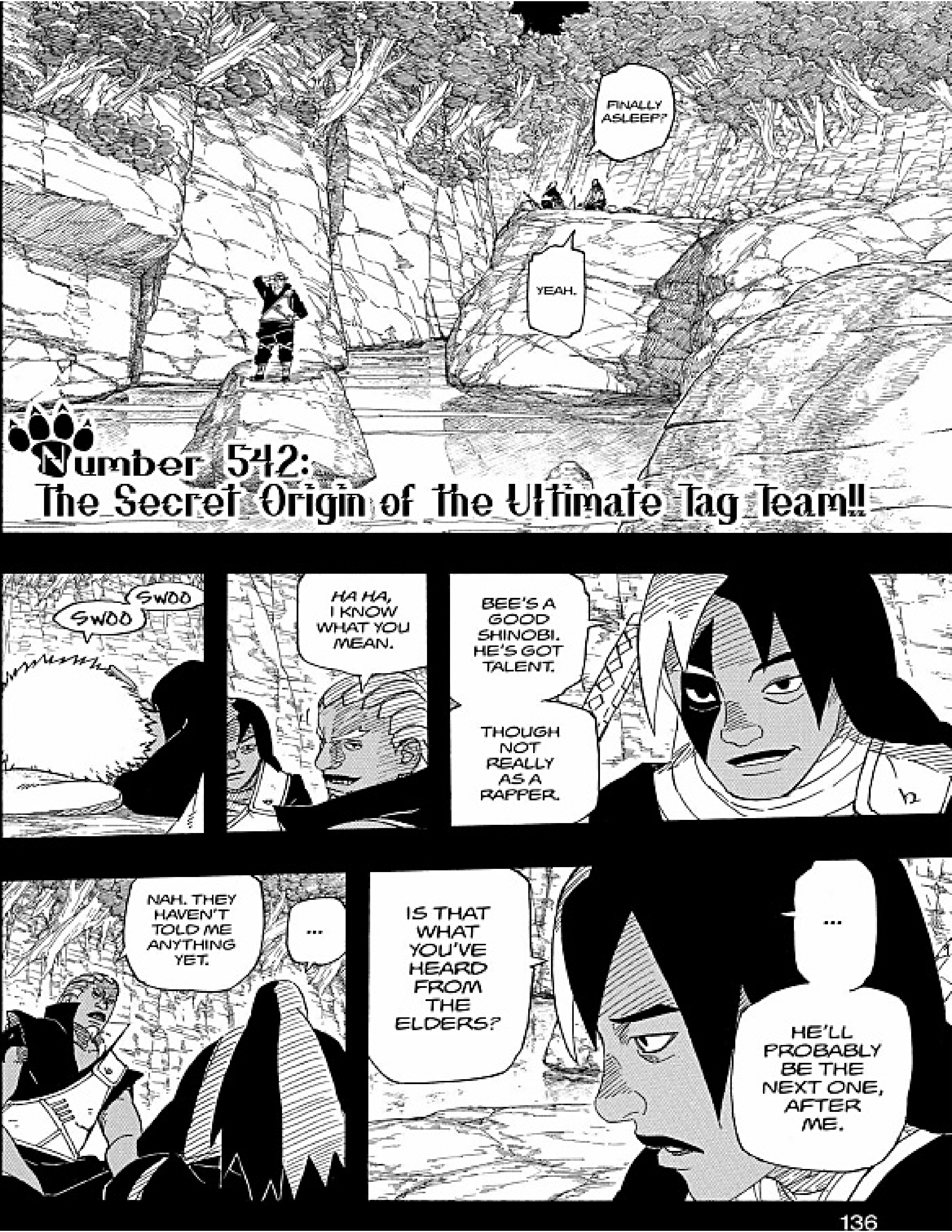


FIRST, BUMP FISTS WITH AY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH POWER YOU TWO SHOULD USE!
THEN, YOU'LL TEST OUT YOUR DOUBLE LARIAT ON THE DOLL!
BAM
OKAY! LET'S START WITH YOU ON THE FAR RIGHT!
THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPOR-TUNITY!!
THK
BYO-N
WAH!!
FWSH
IT LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T FIND ANYONE THIS TIME, EITHER.
IF HE'D HAD ANY SIBLINGS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH THIS.
HMM?!
THD


READ THIS WAY
L-LORD RAI-KAGE!!
WE MAY HAVE FOUND ONE.
...?
WHEE—!!
SHUP
HEH HEH HEH. YOU'RE A BIT OF AN ODD ONE.
BUMP FISTS WITH ME ONE MORE TIME!
FSH
?
WE'RE BROTHERS FROM THIS DAY ON!
NICE TO KNOW YA, BEE!!
BAM


NARUTO


Number 542:
The Secret Origin of the Ultimate Tag Team!!
LET'S DO IT, BEE.
SHOW YOU KNOW THE *PLAN*♪ BY BUMPING FISTS, MAN.♪
'KAY, BRO!
EAT UP!
YOU CAN'T KEEP UP WITH ME IF YOU DON'T GET BIGGER AND STRONGER!
'KAY, BRO!
CHOMP
OUR NEXT MISSION IS A SCROLL RECOVERY.
WAIT, NO WAY?!
'KAY, BRO!
TA-DAA
DOINK


FINALLY ASLEEP?
YEAH.
Number 542:
The Secret Origin of the Ultimate Tag Team!!
BEE'S A GOOD SHINOBI. HE'S GOT TALENT.
THOUGH NOT REALLY AS A RAPPER.
HA HA, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
SWOO
SWOO
...
HE'LL PROBABLY BE THE NEXT ONE, AFTER ME.
IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE HEARD FROM THE ELDERS?
...
NAH. THEY HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING YET.

READ THIS WAY

BOTH MY OLD MAN AND MY UNCLE FAILED.

I'M NOT COMPATIBLE EITHER.

LISTEN, AS YOUR COUSIN...

YOU'VE KEPT EIGHT TAILS UNDER CONTROL.

JUST HUSH AND LISTEN!

...

ONLY ANOTHER JINCHŪRIKI CAN UNDERSTAND.

EVEN YOUR FRIENDS LOOK AT YOU DIFFERENTLY AFTER THE PROCESS.

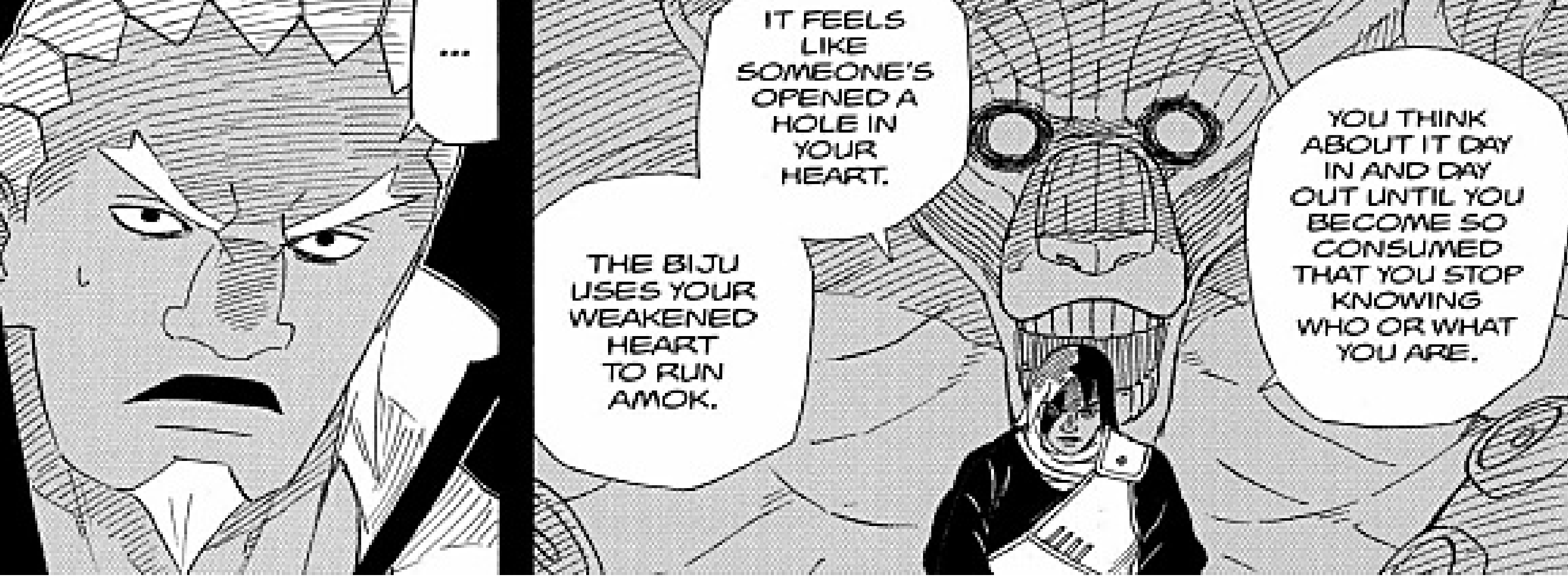
AND EVEN IF THEY THINK YOU'RE STILL THE SAME, WELL, THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YOU CAN NEVER LOOK BACK. ONLY TOWARD THE FUTURE.

BUT THAT FUTURE IS FILLED WITH DARKNESS AND LONELINESS.

HAVE YOU REALLY ACHIEVED COMPATIBILITY...

...IF YOU NOW WALK THROUGH LIFE WITH THE SHADOW OF YOUR OWN DEATH?





YOU LIVE WITH THE CONSTANT FEAR OF DEATH.
YOU'D SOON RATHER JUST DIE.
BUT YOU HAVE NINJUTSU, SKILL, ANCESTRY, VIRTUE, EVERYTHING!
TRUE, AND THAT IS WHY I WAS CHOSEN AS THE EIGHT TAILS' JINCHŪRIKI.
BUT NONE OF THOSE THINGS ARE TRULY NECESSARY TO BECOME JINCHŪRIKI.
SO WHAT IS?
...
SOMETHING THAT CAN PLUG THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART!
...
AND THAT'S WHAT?


READ THIS WAY
YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN IT HAP- PENS!!
IF YOU CAN FIND IT, YOU WILL STAY STRONG.
SO MAKE SURE THAT BEE FINDS IT.
ANOTHER FAILURE. THIS RAMPAGE, EIGHT VICTIMS.
EIGHT TAILS IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN THAN TWO TAILS.
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS?
ISN'T HE THE NEXT JINCHÛ- RIKI?
THAT CHILD?
...


IT'S QUITE AN HONOR, TO HOST THE *BIJU*♪ SO HEY, I PAY TRIBUTE NOW... TO *YOU*♪
SWOOSH
WHEE—!!
I DON'T THINK HE'LL MAKE IT.
FSH
Y-YOU LITTLE WRETCH. HOW DARE YOU KILL MY COMRADES.
WHOO


READ THIS WAY
!
KLIK
KLIK
YOU CONTINUE TO INSULT ME?!!
LET'S DO IT, BEE.
SHUP
?!
OKAY, BRO.
BEE?! THIS BRAT'S BEE?!
IT'S THE A/B COMBO?!
SO YOU KNOW WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF, THEN, EH?
FSH
FSH
TH-THE DOUBLE LARIAT?!!


F-FOOL, YA FOOL, YO♪
I-I KNOW—
I'M STILL TONING DOWN MY STRENGTH TO MATCH YOURS, YOU GOTTA GET STRONGER!
BEE, WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THE DOUBLE LARIAT IS WHERE WE NEED IT TO BE!
THEN I'LL WIN WHEN WE PLAY♪
I'LL BE STRONGER THAN YOU SOME-DAY♪
YOU WANT THE IRON CLAW, THEN!! HERE!!
DON'T EVER CALL ME A FOOL, LITTLE BRO!!
SO GO AHEAD, GET MORE POWERFUL THAN ME. THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TONE YOUR STRENGTH DOWN!!
DOUBLE LARIAT REQUIRES OUR STRENGTH TO BE EQUAL!
SKOOSH
NOOOOO!!!
GWA-HA HA HA HA!!
SUCH DELUSIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE HONED YOUR LARIAT!
OH, I WILL♪ AND I'LL GET STRONGER STILL♪


READ THIS WAY
THIS IS IT.
WE'LL BE SEALING EIGHT TAILS INSIDE BEE TONIGHT.
YEAH.
SOMETHING THAT CAN PLUG THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART!
YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN IT HAPPENS!!
IF YOU CAN FIND IT, YOU WILL STAY STRONG.
THD THD THD THD
WHAT'S UP, BRO?
HUNH? MMM.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A JINCHŪRIKI...!
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE.
YOUR LIFE IS GOING TO BE VERY HARD.
OH! NO SWEAT, I KINDA FIGURED THAT MIGHT HAPPEN♪
MEBBE I'LL NAME THAT OCTOPUS, WHILE I DO MY RAPPIN'♪
FSH
!


BAM
LISTEN, BEE, ALWAYS TELL ME EVERYTHING, GOT IT? NO SECRETS?!
FOR YOU'RE ...
...VERY SPECIAL TO ME!
WE'RE THE ULTIMATE TAG TEAM!


ZING
鉄
RIGHT ABOUT NOW EIGHT TAILS IS GONNA GO CRAZY.
STAY ON GUARD.
EIGHT TAILS, THAT BE ME, DA RAPPIN KILLER BEE!
FA SHOW!


IT'S THE YELLOW FLASH?! RETREAT!
TH-THAT BLOND HAIR! TELEPORTATION JUTSU!
THE SHINOBI THAT STOPPED OUR NINE TAILS RECOVERY!
SO IT'S HIM.
I'VE HEARD YOU'RE QUITE FAST, YOURSELF.
AND YOU'RE UNRULY AY, SON OF KUMOGAKURE'S THIRD RAIKAGE.
FSH
WE CAN TAKE HIM, THE TWO OF US, BRO, FOOL, YA FOOL!
HUMPH!
BZZ
BZZ


READ THIS WAY
FWOOOOOOOSH
WOOSH
NO ONE MOVE! I'LL FIGHT THEM!
TNK
THK
THK THK
THK
THK
THK
TNK
TNK
...
BZZZZ
...
BZZZZ


?!!
FFT
SPRONG
HE OUTDID MY TOP SPEED ?!!!



FFT
CHOK
UGH!!
WHAM
THAT'S ...!!
THANKS, BEE!
WHAM
BZZ
BZZ
WHACK


ARE YOU OKAY, BEE?!
BAM
HUF
HUF
FWHEEEEEET!!
?!
?!
!
NO WAY!
EIGHT TAILS' JINCHŪRIKI ?!
THE RETREAT SIGNAL! MINATO!!
WE NEED TO PULL OUT!
TAK TAK
TAK TAK


READ THIS WAY
THAT WAS NUTHIN'.
FOR EIGHT TAILS, THAT BE ME, DA RAPPIN' KILLER BEE.
YOU'RE BRAVE.
YOU OVERCOME BEING THE EIGHT TAILS JINCHŪRIKI TO BE YOUR OWN NINJA.
ZWOO
HUMPH! HE'S MORE TALENTED THAN EVEN I!
NO. IT'S MORE THAN THAT.
HE ALREADY HAS SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.
HUNH?!
AY, YOUR LINEAGE IS STRONG.
I SUSPECT THAT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, WE'LL BE FIGHTING AS ONE KAGE AGAINST ANOTHER.
BUT IF YOU DON'T FIGURE OUT SOON WHAT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER CONSIDERS MOST PRECIOUS TO HIM...
... HE WON'T BE JINCHŪRIKI OR EVEN HUMAN.


NARUTO


Number 543: Truer Words
HUMPH!
SPOUT ALL THE NONSENSE YOU WANT, BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!
HE TELEPORTS HIMSELF TO WHERE HIS KUNAI ARE. THEY'RE MARKED WITH JUTSU FORMULA.
I'VE NOTED THE LOCATION OF MOST OF THOSE KUNAI SO IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE HE'LL POP UP AT, I CAN GET HIM USING MY TOP SPEED!
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
I'VE GOT MY OWN RESPONSI-BILITIES.
GO FLY!
NOW, WHICH KUNAI WILL IT BE?!
WSP


!
I CAN'T FAIL!
Number 543: Truer Words
GRR ~~!!
!
NO!
THERE'S TELEPORTATION JUTSU FORMULA ON EIGHT TAILS' TENTACLE...!



READ THIS WAY
WAS THAT WHEN ...?!
...
I'M PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN A MUTUAL STRIKE!
SO SHALL WE STAB EACH OTHER, DEATH BY SPIKE?!
I'M GROWING FOND OF YOU, ENEMY.
YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT THE MOVES OF A SHINOBI KILLER.


URK
THIS IS MY CHANCE!!
FWOOM
!
?!!
GAH! YOU'RE FAST--!!
SCREECH
GOTTA DO IT!!
RRRK



WHACK
BZP
BZP
BZ
BZ
!
BAM
!!
THK
YOU THINK YOUR LARIAT WILL BEAT ME?!
G-G-G-
SWSH


WHAK
!!
AK!!
OCTO-POPS!!
SCREEECH
SHOOM
BAM
!!



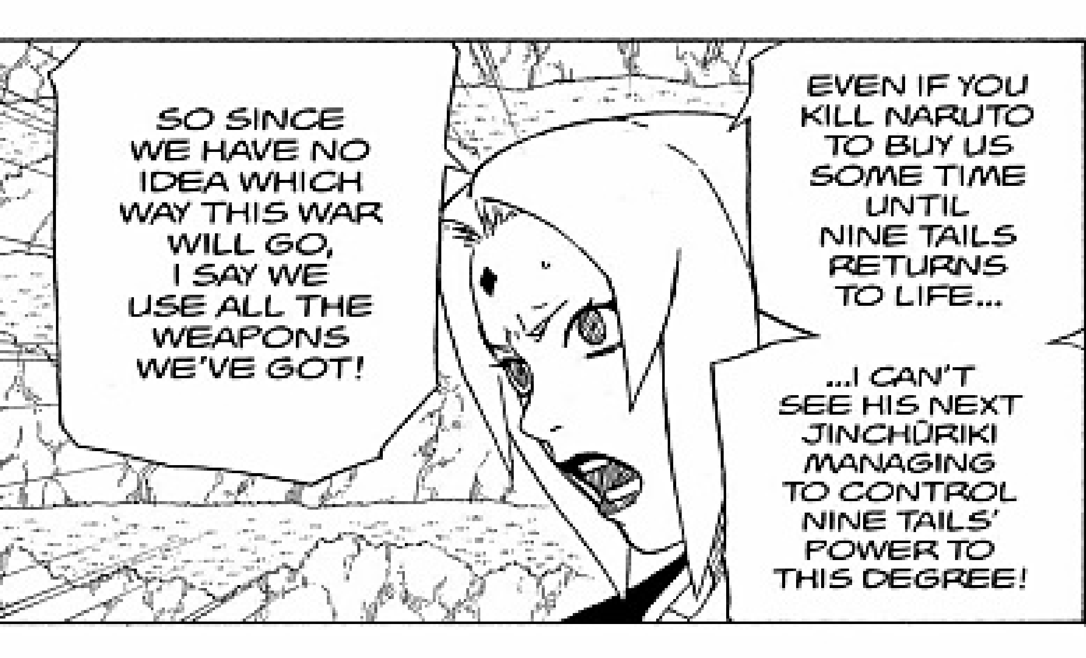
WHY, BEE?!!
YOU DON'T GET IT, BRO?!
FOOL, YA FOOL!
THANKS, OCTOPOPS!!
WHAK
FK
FOOSH
HUMPH!
SLAM
UNGH!!
OW!!
WHAM
UNGH!
ARGH!
BAM
HOKAGE!! YOU HELP TOO!

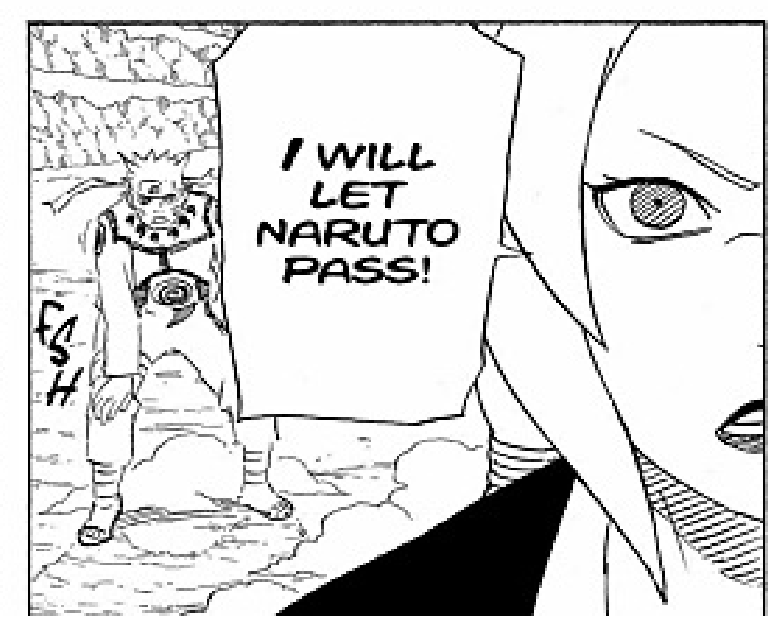

LADY TSUNADE ...?
...
SHUP
SQK
UNTIL I BECOME HOKAGE, THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE!!
...
FSH
?!


READ THIS WAY


!
SHUP
!
G-GRANNY.


...
HOKAGE! YOU BETTER HAVE A REAL GOOD EXCUSE!


EVEN IF YOU KILL NARUTO TO BUY US SOME TIME UNTIL NINE TAILS RETURNS TO LIFE...
...I CAN'T SEE HIS NEXT JINCHŪRIKI MANAGING TO CONTROL NINE TAILS' POWER TO THIS DEGREE!
SO SINCE WE HAVE NO IDEA WHICH WAY THIS WAR WILL GO, I SAY WE USE ALL THE WEAPONS WE'VE GOT!


I WILL LET NARUTO PASS!
FSSH


NICE EXCUSE!! I MEAN, EXPLANATION ...!
THAT'S THE GRANNY HOKAGE I REMEMBER, YA KNOW!!

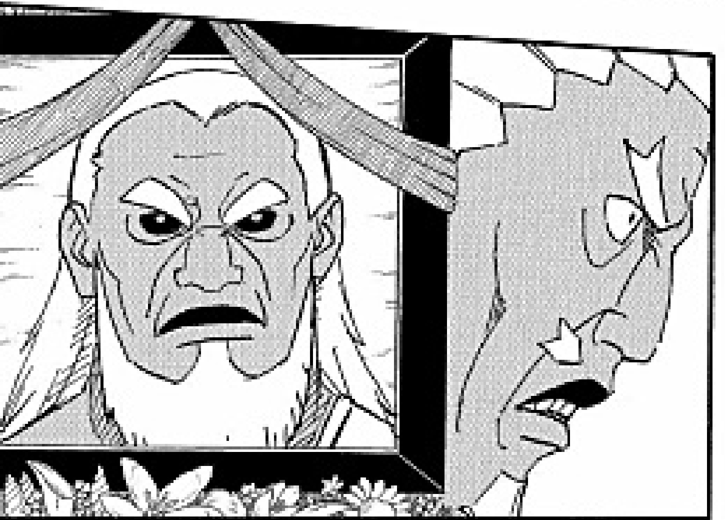


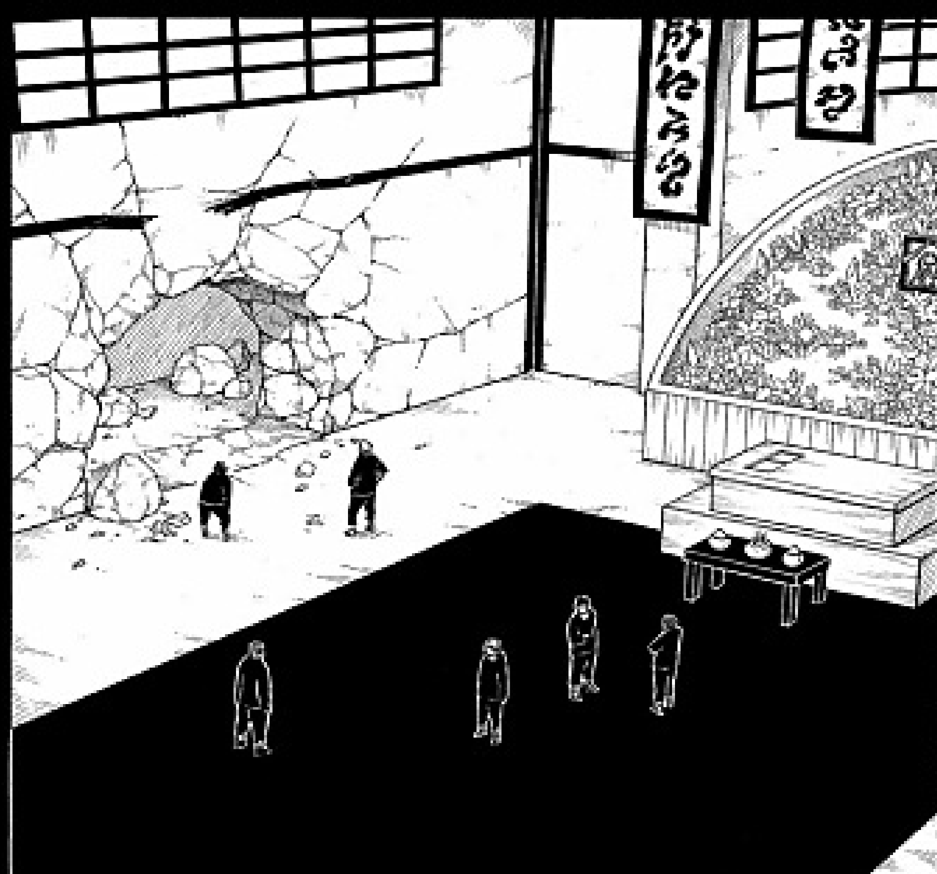

...
HOKAGE! WHO'S THE ONE MAKING ARBITRARY DECISIONS NOW?!
WHERE IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT NARUTO WILL SUCCEED?!
YOU'RE ALL FOOLS.
SHOOM
SHOOM
I TOLD YOU YOUR LARIAT WON'T WORK AGAINST ME!
WH
AM
...
SKOOSH

VOOSH
BAM


BRO, EVER SINCE YOU BECAME RAIKAGE, YOU'VE UNDERESTIMATED MY POWER, LIKE A FOOL!


RRRR






WHERE'S MY BRO?
OVER THERE? OVER HERE?
...!


HE PUNCHED HIS WAY OUT THROUGH THE WALL.
THERE'S GONNA BE A BUNCH OF HOLES IN WALLS NOW.
FOLLOW THEM TO FIND HIM.
HANG IN THERE, *BRO*♪
FSH
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE THE RAIKAGE, *YO*♪
...
I KNOW!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR! I ***WILL*** PROTECT THIS VILLAGE AND NATION TO THE VERY END, AS RAIKAGE!!
THAT WAS MY OLD MAN'S DYING WISH!
...


READ THIS WAY
BEE! STARTING TODAY, GO TO STORM CLOUD RAVINE AND WORK ON YOUR BIJU BOMB!!
YOU WON'T BE ENGAGING THE ENEMY!
?!
BUT MY LARIAT—
I DON'T NEED YOUR LARIAT ANYMORE!
EVEN IF THE ENEMY COMES INVADING, YOU WILL STAY IN THE VILLAGE AND USE YOUR LONG-RANGE BIJU BOMB TO TAKE THEM DOWN!
YOU'RE NEVER TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE AGAIN!
ALL RIGHT ?!!
SCREECH


BEE, BOTH YOU AND NARUTO ARE PRECIOUS JINCHŪRIKI!
YOU'RE SPECIAL TO YOUR VILLAGES AND NATIONS.
I WON'T LET EITHER OF YOU PASS!
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU TWO ARE, DON'T FORGET THAT THE AKATSUKI, OUR ENEMY, HAS ALREADY TAKEN DOWN AND SEALED AWAY ALL THE OTHER JINCHŪRIKI!!
NARUTO AND I WON'T BE *DEFEATED!*
EVERYTHING YOU TOLD US DON'T NEED TO BE REPEATED!
VERY WELL! THEN LET'S TEST IT OUT!
YOUR LARIAT VERSUS MINE!

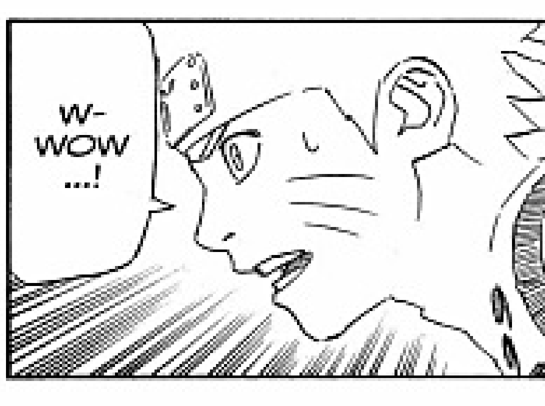

BEE, WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THE DOUBLE LARIAT IS WHERE WE NEED IT TO BE!
I'M STILL TONING DOWN MY STRENGTH TO MATCH YOURS, YOU GOTTA GET STRONGER!
I'LL BE STRONGER THAN YOU SOMEDAY♪
THEN I'LL WIN WHEN WE PLAY♪
THWAK

SLAM

YOU MEAN... THOSE WORDS... I SAID TO YOU IN FRONT OF THE WATERFALL OF TRUTH?






W-WOW ...!


UNGH.

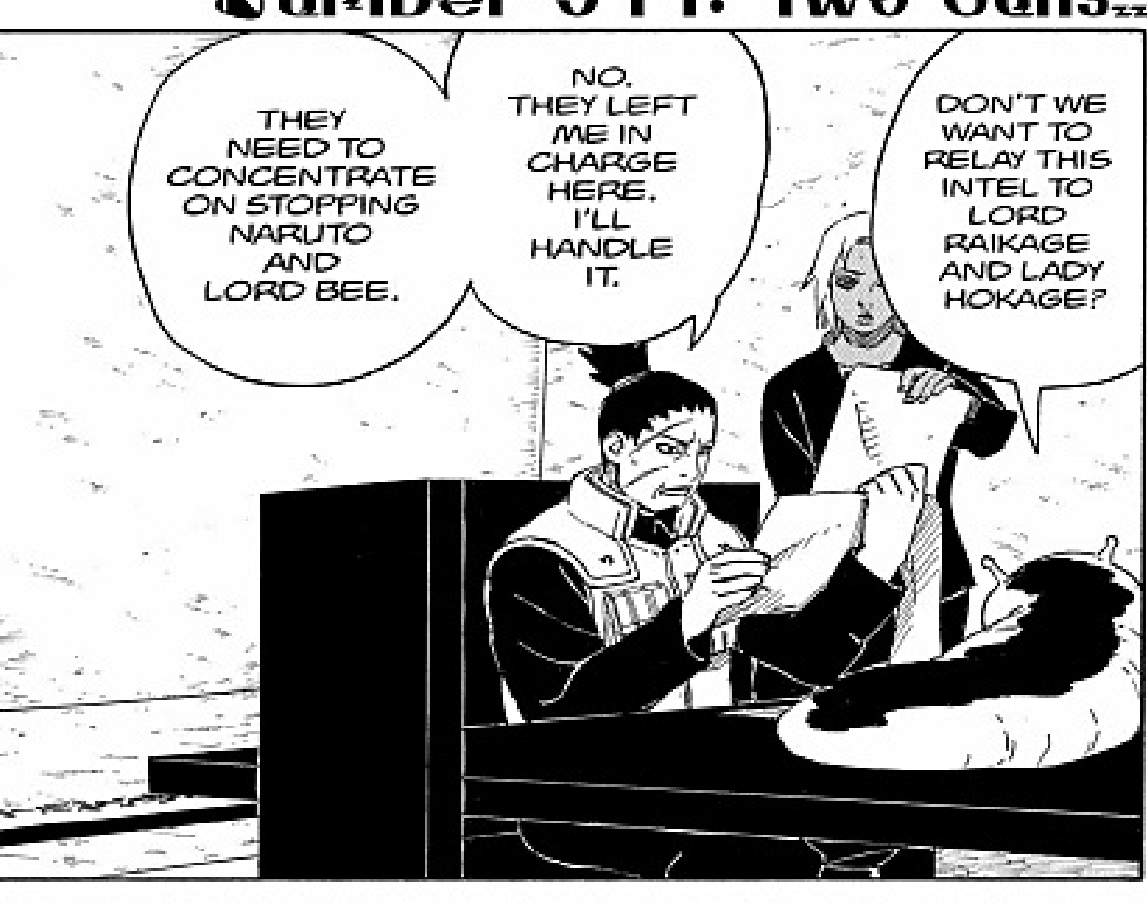

BEING JINCHŪRIKI ISN'T OUR ONLY POWER SOURCE♪
THE TWO OF US POSSESS AN EVEN BIGGER FORCE♪
BEFORE I RECEIVED EIGHT TAILS, TRUER WORDS YOU NEVER SPOKE♪
SO LONG AS I HAVE THEM, I TRULY BELIEVE I CAN STAY STRONG, MY POWER'S NO JOKE♪


YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN IT HAPPENS!! IF YOU CAN FIND IT, YOU WILL STAY STRONG. SO MAKE SURE THAT BEE FINDS IT.
AAH.

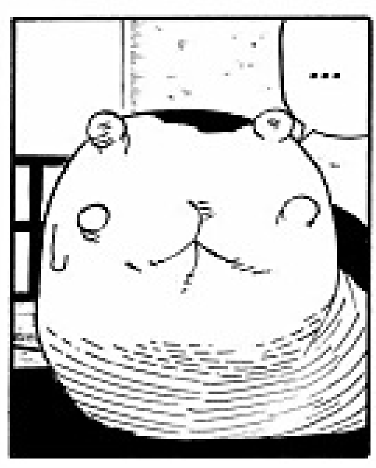

NARUTO

Number 544: Two Suns!!

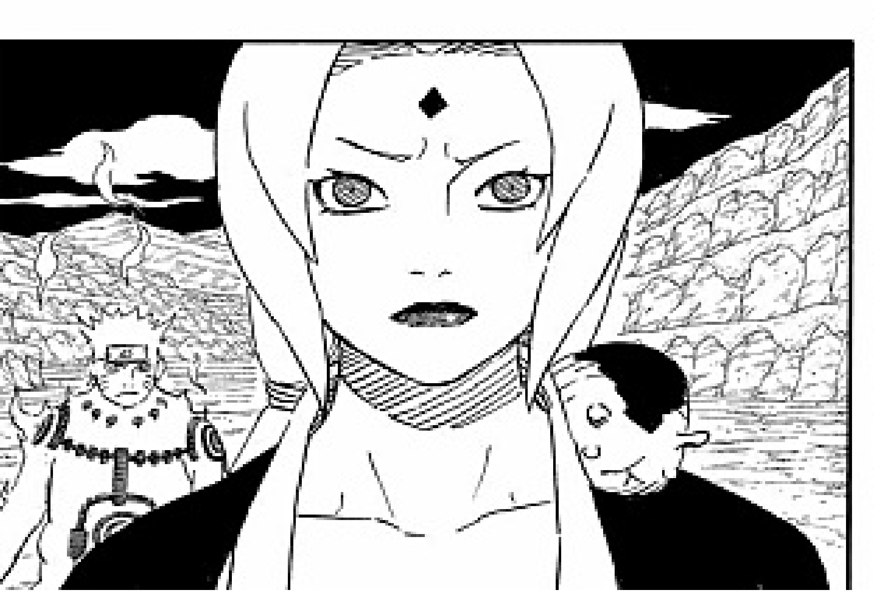






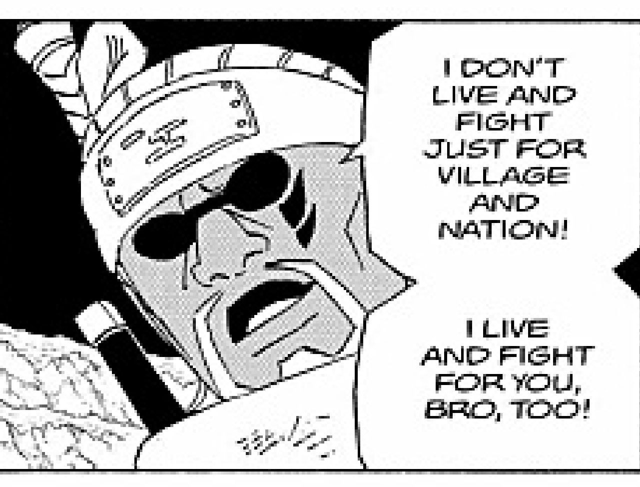






Number 544: Two Suns!!















ONLY I COULD CONTROL EIGHT TAILS. ONLY I COULD WIN THAT *FIGHT*♪

NARUTO'S GOT THE SAME BRIGHT LIGHT INSIDE HIM THAT I DO, *RIGHT?*♪

BUT HE'S ROCKING TWO SUNS' *LIGHT!*♪



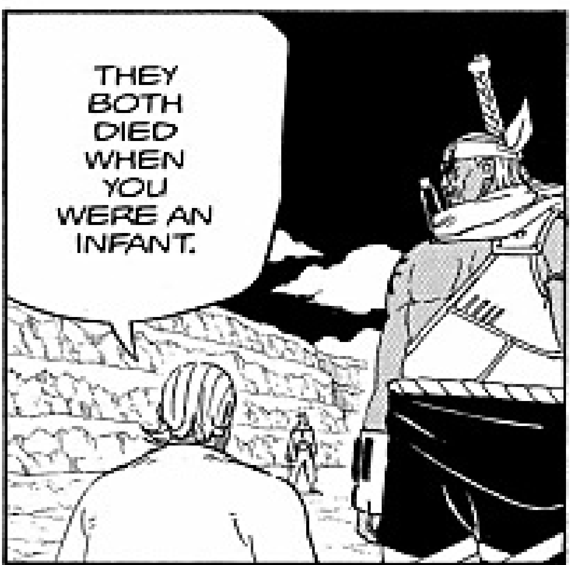
YEAH.

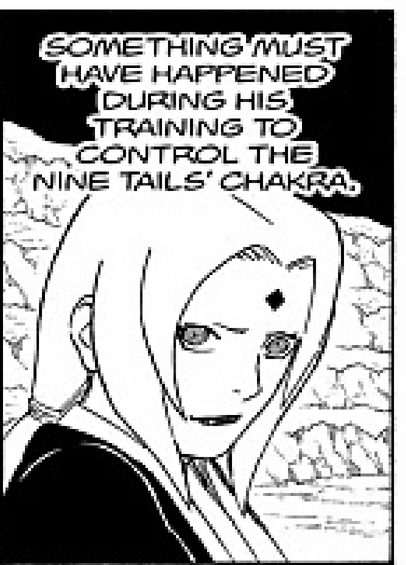
I'M ROCKING *TWO* SUNS!

UZUMAKI NARUTO. WHAT ARE THESE TWO SUNS OF YOURS?

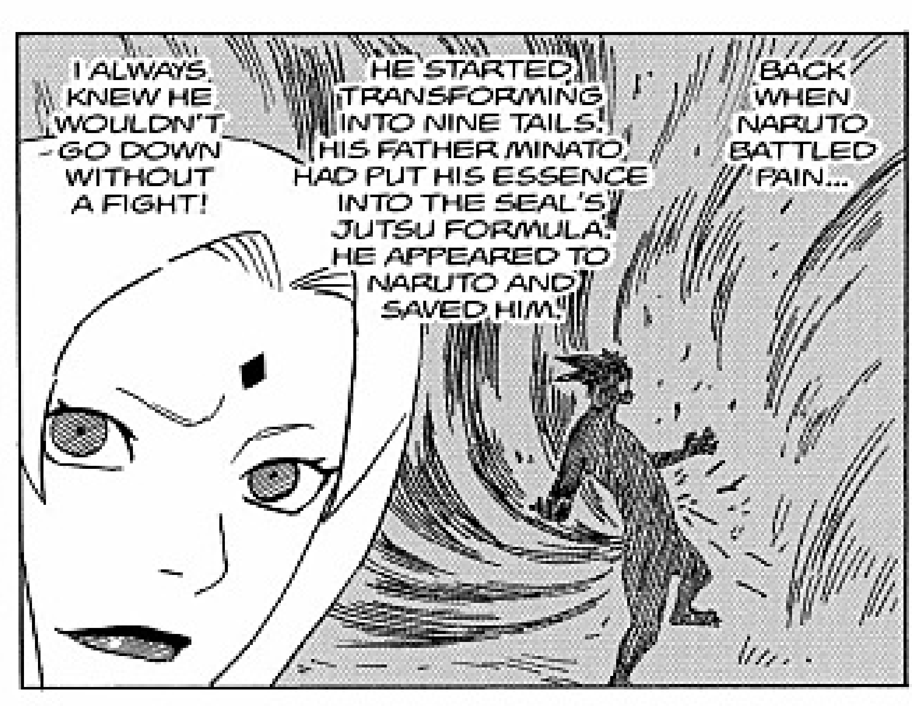
PA AND MA!!

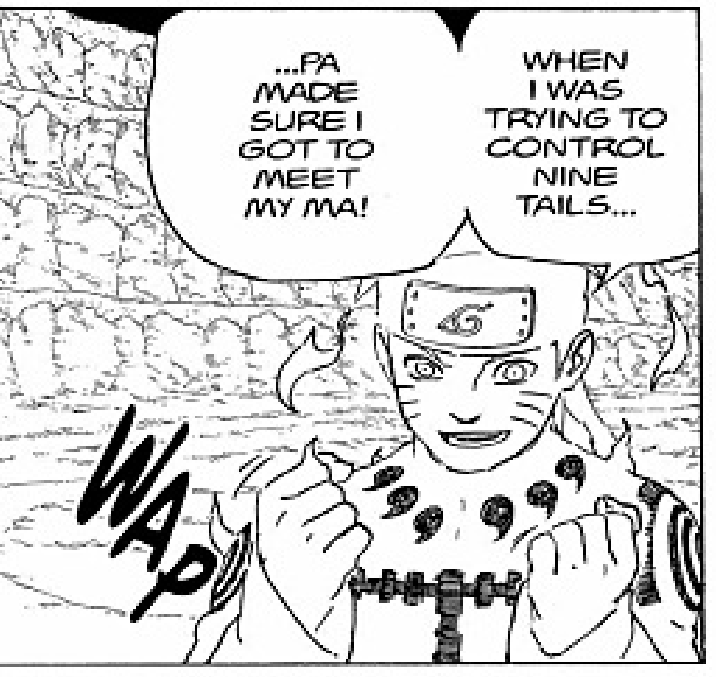

YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER ...?
THE FOURTH HOKAGE AND UZUMAKI KUSHINA?


THEY BOTH DIED WHEN YOU WERE AN INFANT.


SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED DURING HIS TRAINING TO CONTROL THE NINE TAILS' CHAKRA.







PA SAID HE'D WOVEN MA'S CHAKRA INTO THE SEAL.

SHE WAS ABLE TO HANG OUT WITH ME WHILE I UNDID THE NINE TAILS' SEAL!

ALL FOR ME!!

CLAP

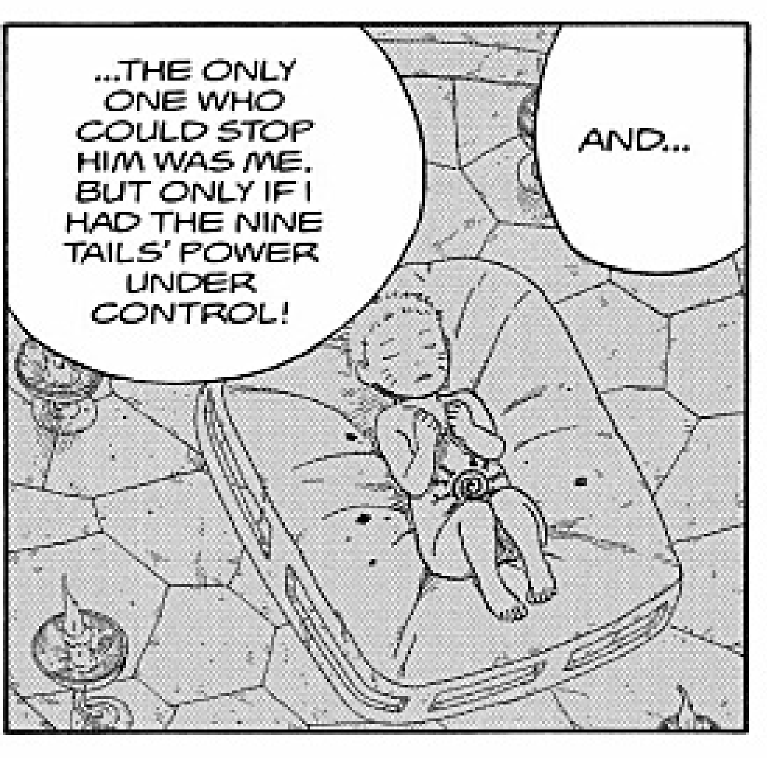
THE FOURTH HOKAGE HAD STUDIED THE UZUMAKI CLAN'S UNIQUE SEALING JUTSU. KUSHINA'S CHAKRA AND LIFE FORCE WERE POWERFUL WITHOUT QUESTION.

IT IS POSSIBLE.

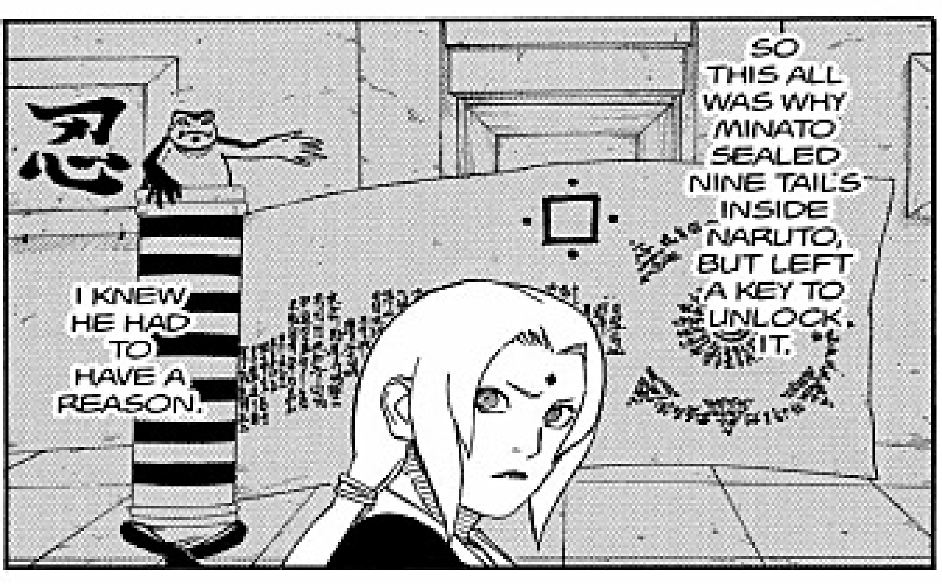
IT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!


MA HELPED ME GET THIS POWER. AND SHE TOLD ME EVERYTHING!
ONE TIME PA FOUGHT THIS GUY IN A MASK.
HE LEARNED TWO THINGS.

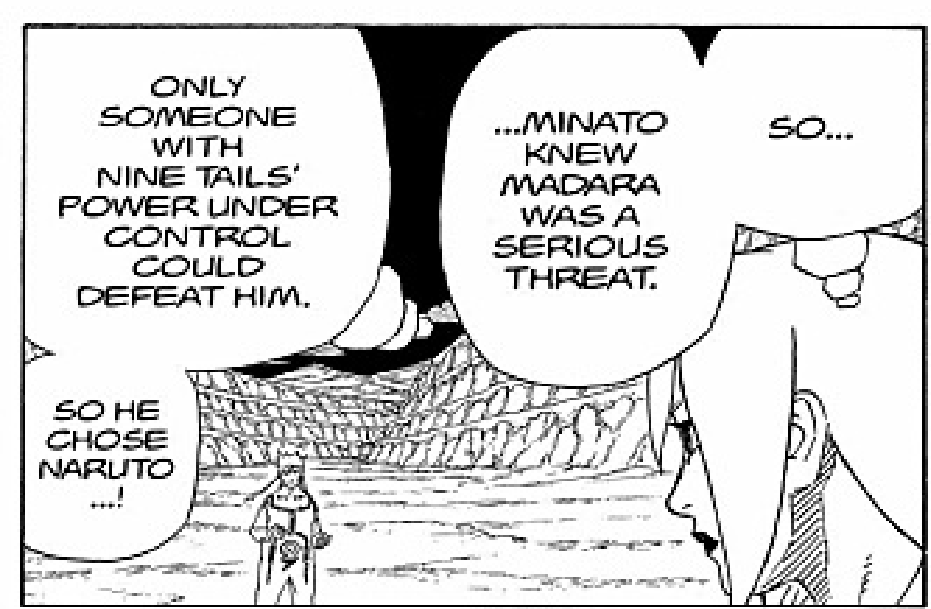

THIS MASKED GUY WAS GONNA TRY TO DESTROY THE FUTURE.


AND...
...THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD STOP HIM WAS ME. BUT ONLY IF I HAD THE NINE TAILS' POWER UNDER CONTROL!


MASKED MAN. MEANING MADARA, EH.
SO THAT KONOHA NINE TAILS INCIDENT WAS MADARA'S DOING, AFTER ALL, HUH.


SO THIS ALL WAS WHY MINATO SEALED NINE TAILS INSIDE NARUTO, BUT LEFT A KEY TO UNLOCK IT.
I KNEW HE HAD TO HAVE A REASON.


READ THIS WAY


SO...
...MINATO KNEW MADARA WAS A SERIOUS THREAT.
ONLY SOMEONE WITH NINE TAILS' POWER UNDER CONTROL COULD DEFEAT HIM.
SO HE CHOSE NARUTO ...!


MINATO ENTRUSTED EVERY-THING TO YOU?
HE KNEW HE WASN'T THE SAVIOR?


I DON'T KNOW IF PA WAS THE SAVIOR OR NOT.


MY TEACHER CALLED PA A CHILD OF PROPHECY.


DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU?
THAT SAVIOR, MINATO, DIED.
YOU DON'T THINK THAT WAS A FAILURE?


...



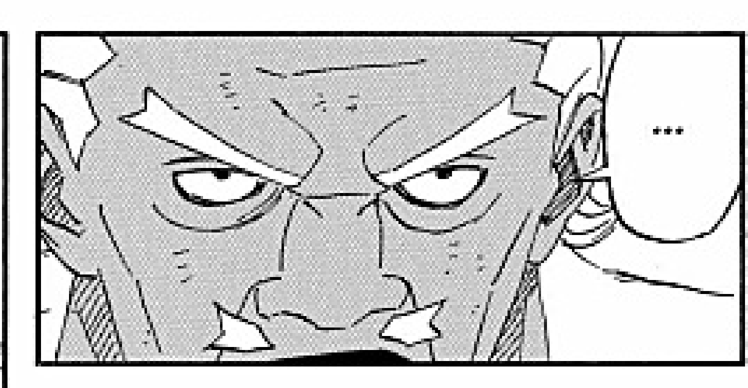

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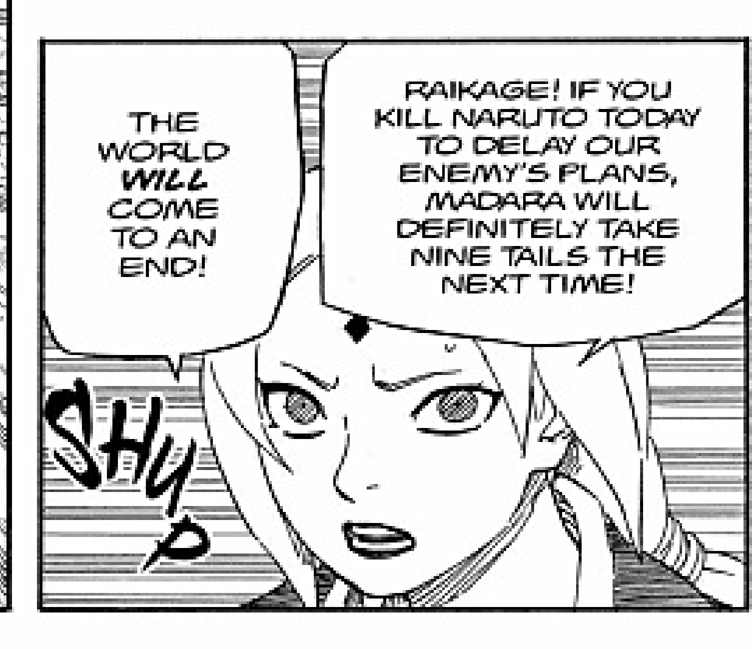


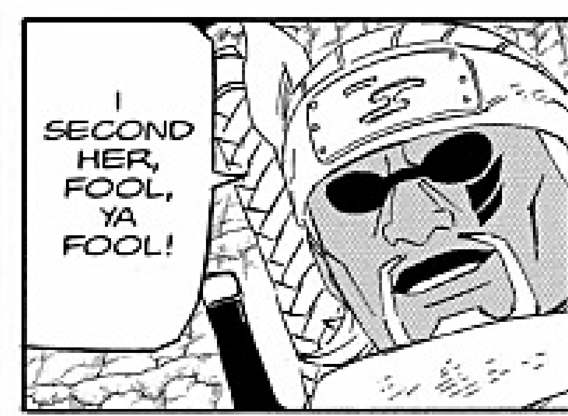
MY FATHER DIED.
HE AND MY MOTHER DIED PROTECTING KONOHA FROM THE ENEMY AND THE NINE-TAILED FOX!
THEY DIED PROTECTING ME!
IT ONLY TOOK A SECOND.
BUT THEY LEFT ME SO MUCH.
TNK
WHAT THEY GAVE ME...
...WILL MAKE ME WIN!!
I WILL BE THE SAVIOR!!


READ THIS WAY

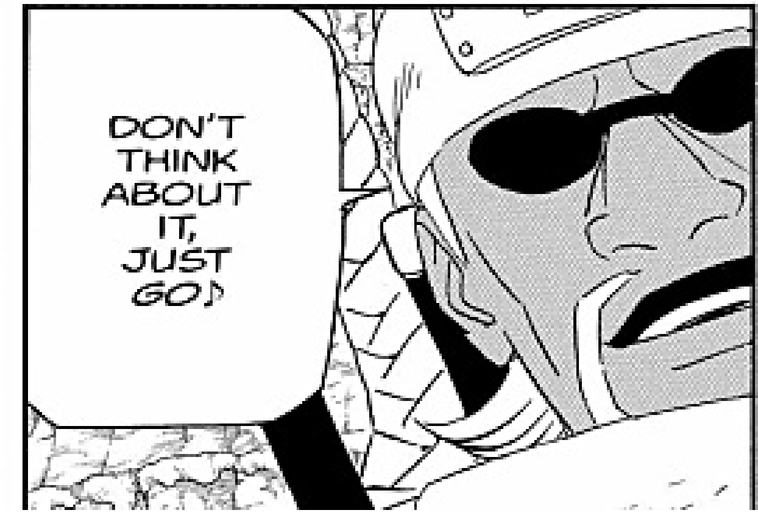

NARUTO KEEPS NINE TAILS UNDER CONTROL!
JUST LIKE MINATO THOUGHT!
SHUP
WE NEED TO LET NARUTO GO. HE CAN PROTECT THE SHINOBI!!
I BET ON NARUTO!!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?!


...


RAIKAGE! IF YOU KILL NARUTO TODAY TO DELAY OUR ENEMY'S PLANS, MADARA WILL DEFINITELY TAKE NINE TAILS THE NEXT TIME!
THE WORLD WILL COME TO AN END!
SHUP


I SECOND HER, FOOL, YA FOOL!


ONLY WAY TO GO BRO♪
ALL BETS ON NARUTO♪

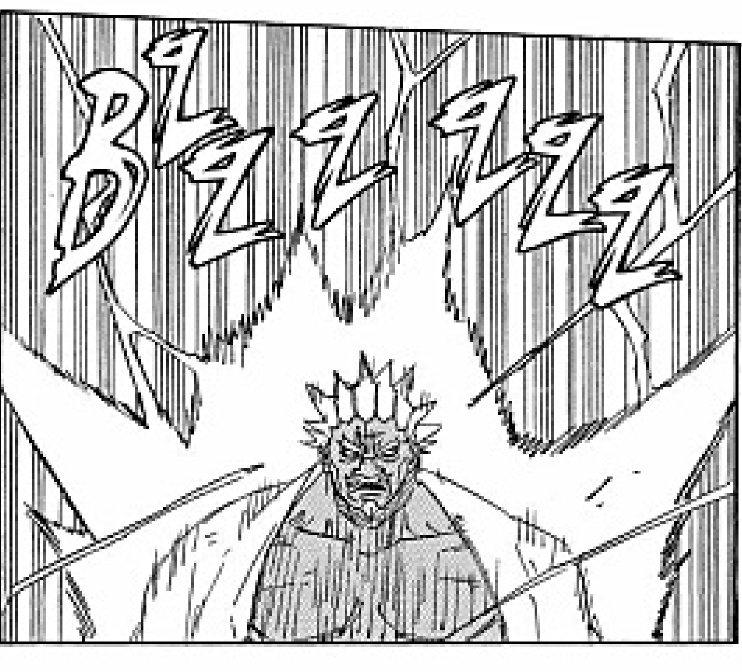

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, JUST GO♪

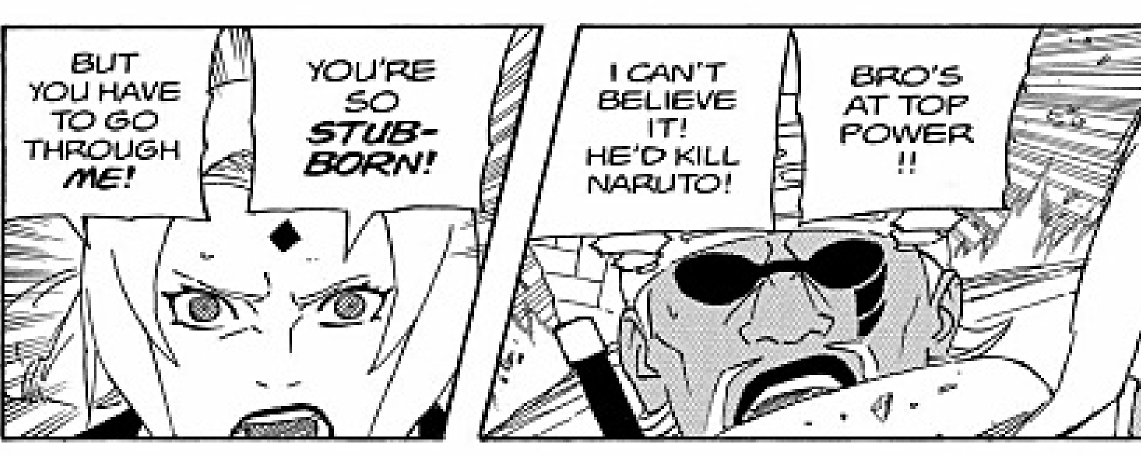

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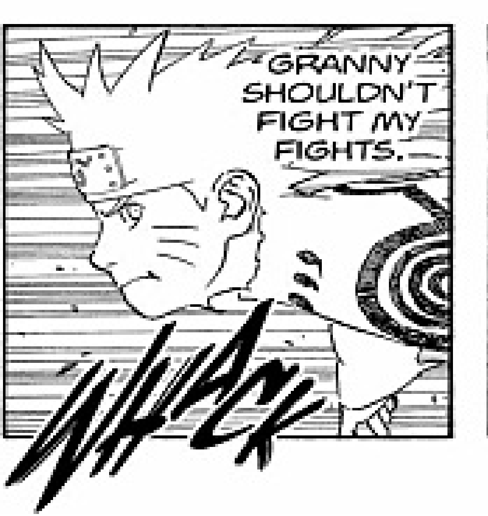

...

WHAM
?!!

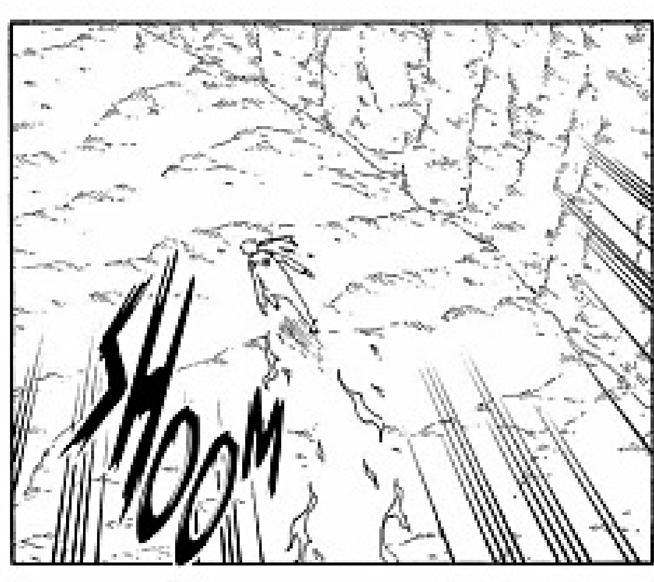

SLAM
ARGH!!




BRO'S AT TOP POWER !!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HE'D KILL NARUTO!
YOU'RE SO STUB-BORN!
BUT YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!


GRANNY SHOULDN'T FIGHT MY FIGHTS.
WHACK

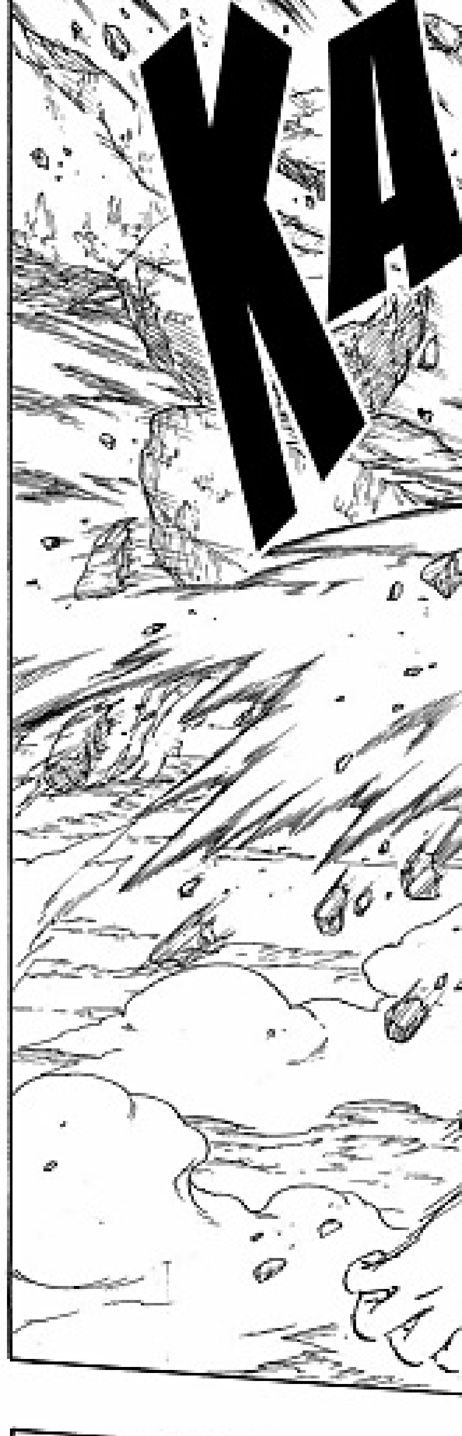

READ THIS WAY


SHOOM


HUH?
I'M COMING, NARUTO!


SO MANY PEOPLE ARE TRUSTING ME.

VOOSH





...IF I FAIL I'M NOT A SAVIOR.

SO I WILL NOT FAIL.

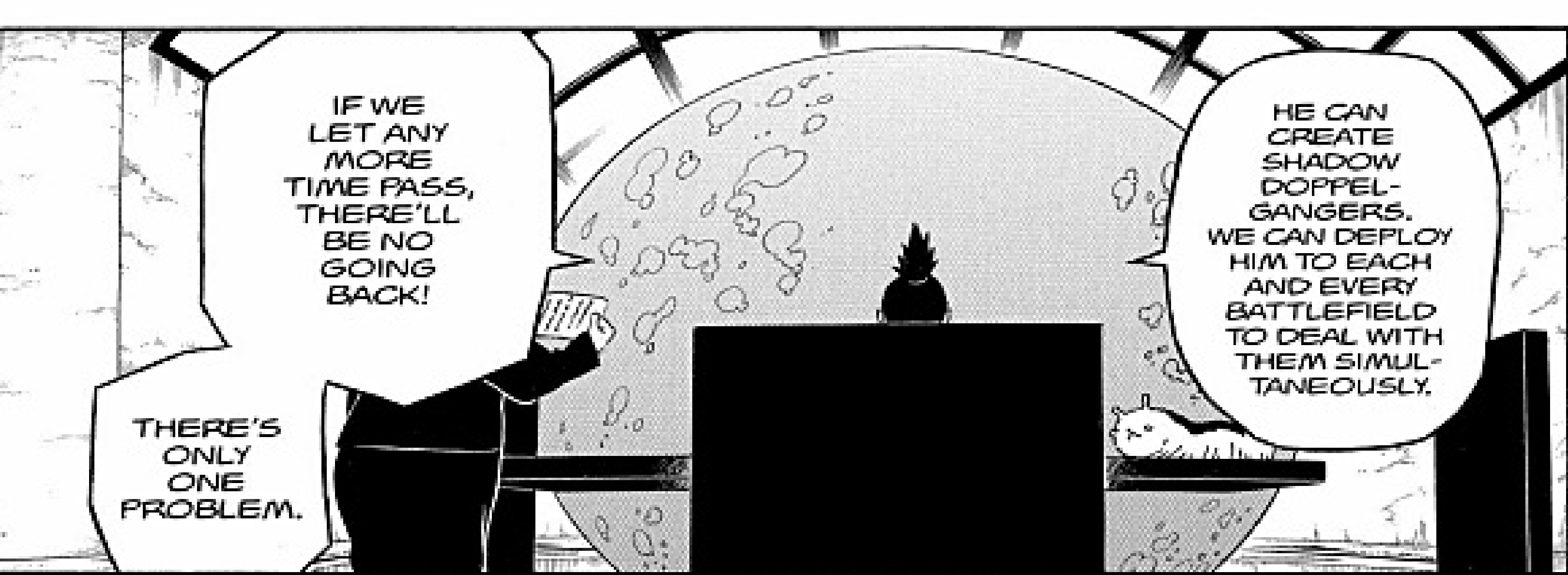
I'M MY FATHER'S SON!

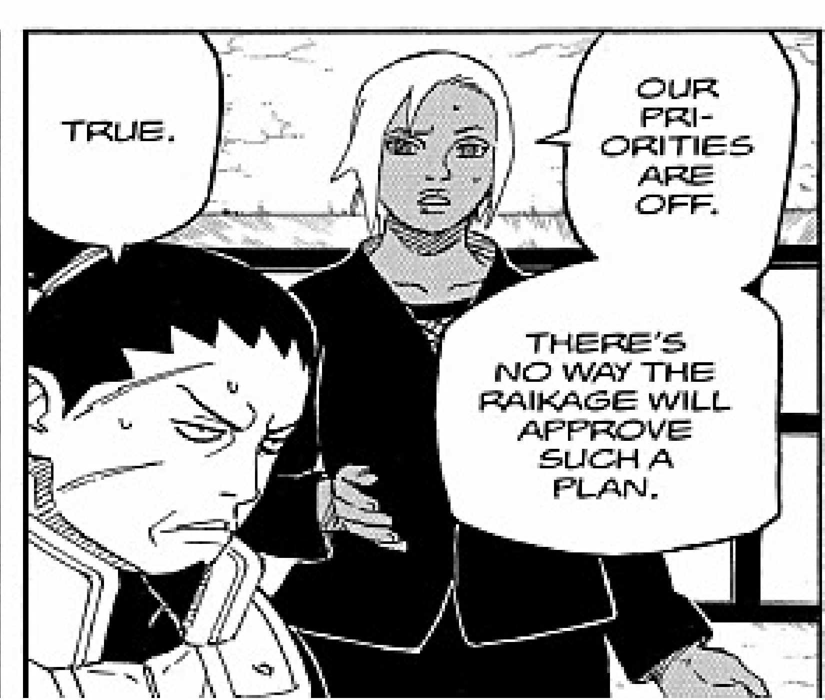


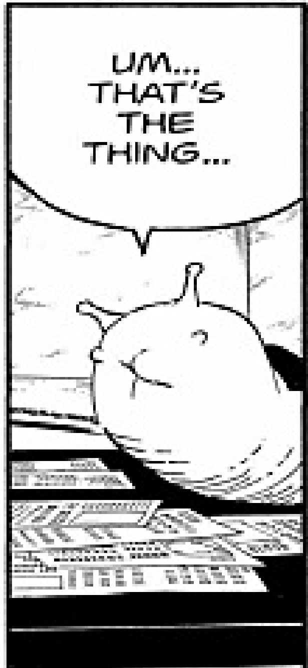

BOOOOOM
I WON'T FAIL THEM!!!
...
HE OUTRAN BRO?!
THE FOOL REALLY IS...
...JUST LIKE THE YELLOW FLASH!!

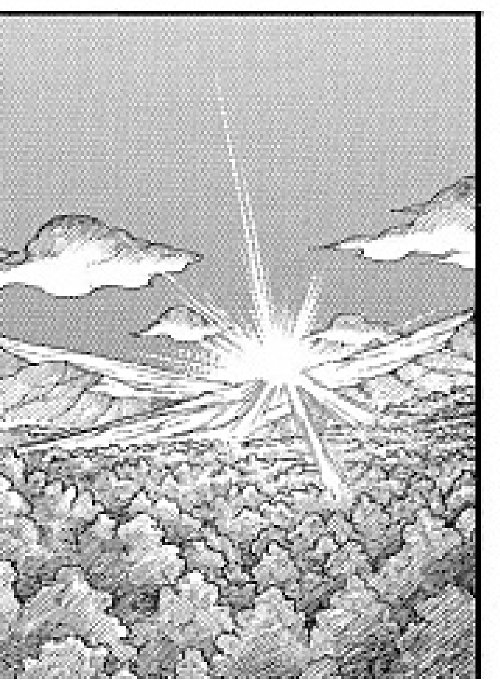

HEH.
MY ATTACK WAS SIMPLY A TEST.
YOU'RE ONLY THE SECOND TO HAVE EVER OUTRUN MY FASTEST PUNCH.
...!
WE HAVE A SAVIOR AFTER ALL.
IT'S YOU.
HEH.
GO FORTH.
YESSIR!!


ACCORD-ING TO THIS DATA...
NARUTO CAN SENSE HOSTILITY WHEN IN NINE TAILS CHAKRA MODE.
HE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE WHITE BEINGS' TRANS-FORMATION TECHNIQUE!
UNFOR-TUNATELY, THIS REALLY IS THE ONLY WAY!
極


HE CAN CREATE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS. WE CAN DEPLOY HIM TO EACH AND EVERY BATTLEFIELD TO DEAL WITH THEM SIMUL-TANEOUSLY.
IF WE LET ANY MORE TIME PASS, THERE'LL BE NO GOING BACK!
THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM.


OUR PRI-ORITIES ARE OFF.
THERE'S NO WAY THE RAIKAGE WILL APPROVE SUCH A PLAN.
TRUE.

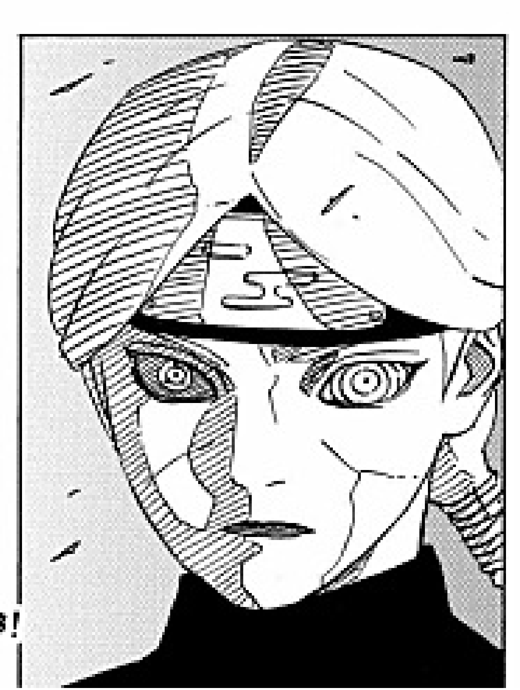

UM... THAT'S THE THING...

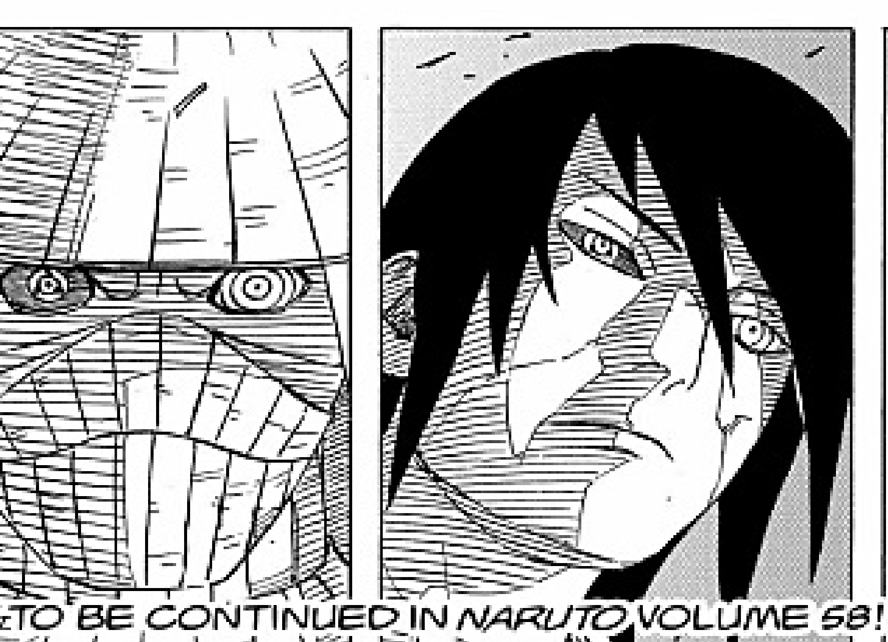


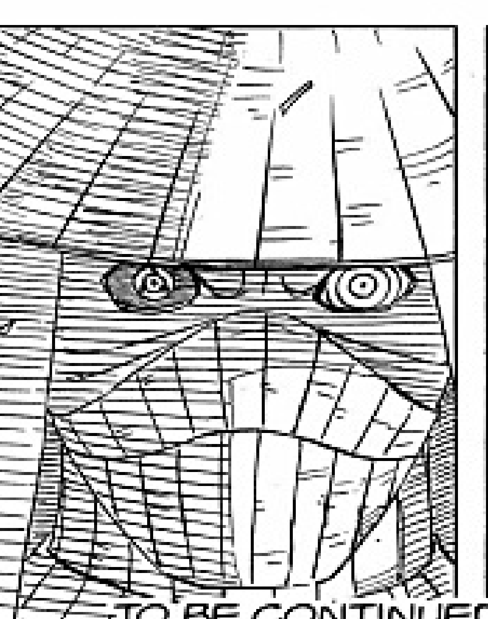


SIX NEW PAINS. ALL JINCHŪRIKI.

I JUST ADDED A LITTLE SOMETHING.







TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 58!


THE LONG NIGHT IS FINALLY COMING TO AN END. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE THEIR EYES NOW.